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Treasury Buildings, William Street, Brisbane.

QUEENSLAND AT HOME.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
QUEENSLAND.

BRISBANE :
POWELL & CO., PRINTERS, LIMITED, 47 ADELAIDE STREET,

—
1905.


QUEENSLAND

AT HOME

PRINTED

FOR THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER

INTRODUCTION.



IN this short sketch my readers will find scant reference to the natural resources or commercial possibilities of the State. My only object is to display Queensland *out of working hours*—my leading text the *Homelife of Queensland*. So for the clearing of all obscurities in my issues, I postulate the several and individual successes in the business world of those whom I shall modestly portray upon the hearths and homes of Queensland. And as my audience must of necessity be drawn from various spheres of life, I ask each reader to pardon the introduction from time to time of the, to him, unnecessary matter, for the sake of his less favoured fellow reader for whose benefit it was intended.

QUEENSLAND AT HOME.

CHAPTER I.

CLIMATE.



THE casual conversation between two Britons has in ninety-five cases out of a hundred the weather for its introduction, and therefore, speaking to my fellow Britons across 12,000 miles of sea, I almost inevitably commence with that same conventional topic.

Queensland has not one but several climates, ranging in nature from a positive "good" to the highest superlative of desirability. One characteristic and one only applies to all Queensland in the matter of weather, and that is that it is essentially a "sunny" clime.

They say there's bread and work for all,
And the sun shines always there.

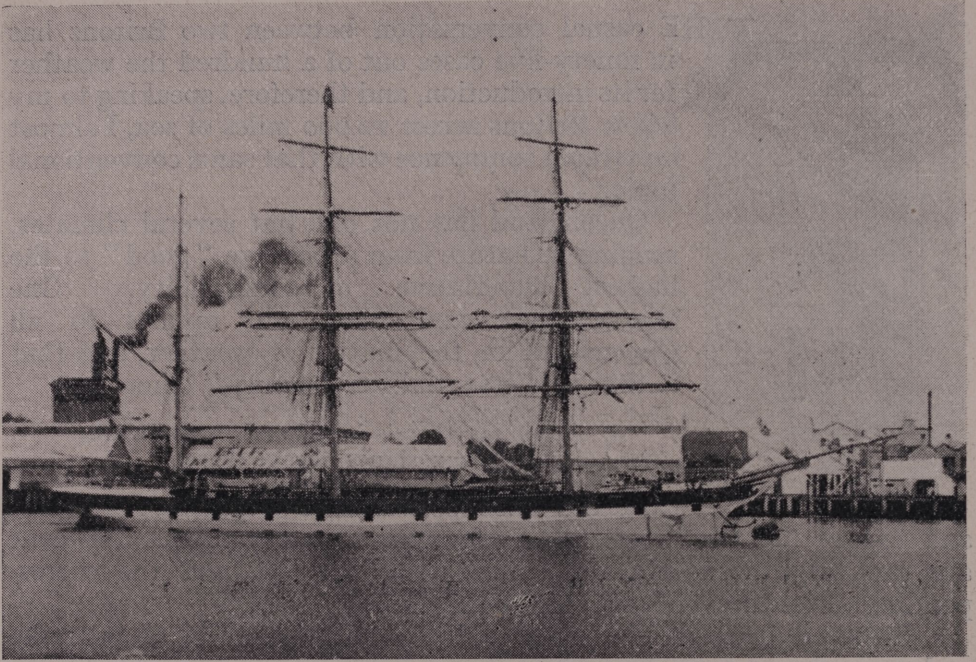
sang the Irish poetess of two generations back, and to-day the two most striking features of our southern continent are the brightness—not the warmth—of our sun, and the corresponding brightness of our children's eyes.

Situated between the 10th and the 29th parallels of latitude, and possessing at once a coast line of 2000 odd miles and an inland territory terminating at a point distant not less than 800 miles from



Harvesting on the Darling Downs.

the nearest sea, Queensland unavoidably presents climatic variations. To explain, however, how these natural variations are accentuated by the physical features of the State, the following short geographical description is necessary. For something over 1000 miles the east coast of the State faces the Pacific Ocean. Flanking that coast at a distance varying from 10 to 100 miles a range of mountains runs

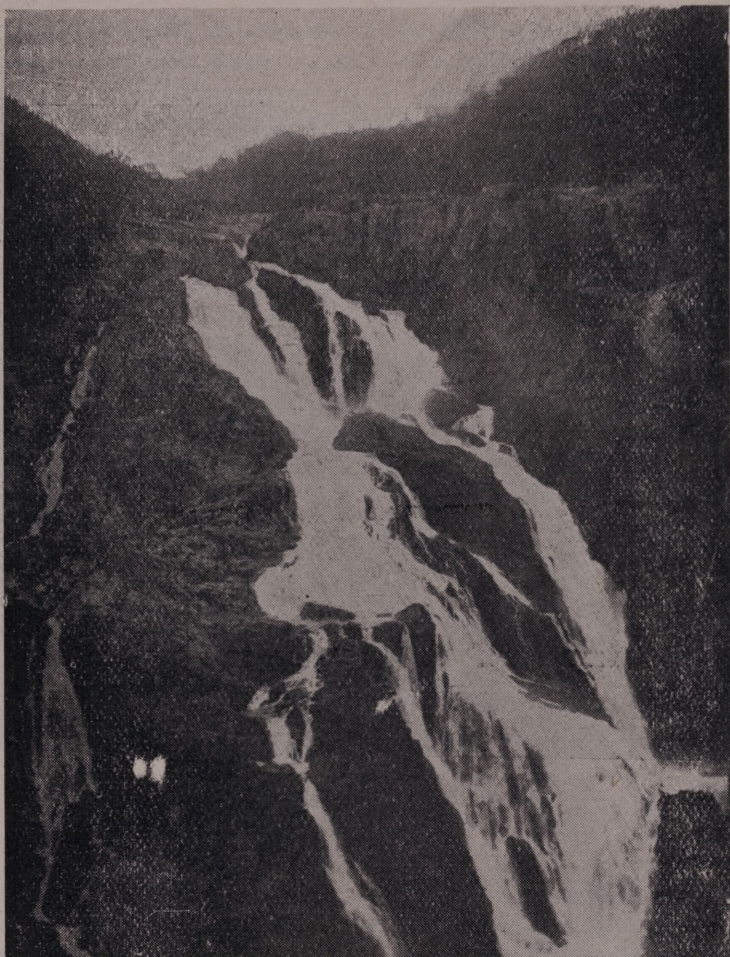


"S. Banffshire." First load of Wheat to leave Queensland, 1904.

the entire length of the sea-board, and is in its turn flanked by a series of plateaus, whose altitudes reach from 1000 to 3000 feet, and which differ in width from 30 to 150 miles, ere they slope gradually into plains and downs that stretch and roll to the central ranges of the Continent. Queensland is thus divided from east to west into the Coast country, the Tableland country, and the Plain country, and the climatic conditions of any locality in Queensland depend more upon its position with respect to these divisions than upon its distance from the equator; so that what time the sheep shearers of St. George, Cunnamulla, and Thargomindah are watching the mirages melt into fierce Indian summer in 28° south, 700 miles due north, the wolfram miners and gold sluicers of the Tate and the Russell Rivers may be seeking warmth in the more vigorous exercise of their daily tasks.

For descriptive purposes the divisions already referred to may be taken to be subdivided by the Tropic of Capricorn, giving for discussion and examination six distinct Queensland climates. Before proceeding, however, to a consideration of these climates, it is proper to point out that (so sudden and irregular are the physical changes of the country, and so important from the weather prophet's stand-

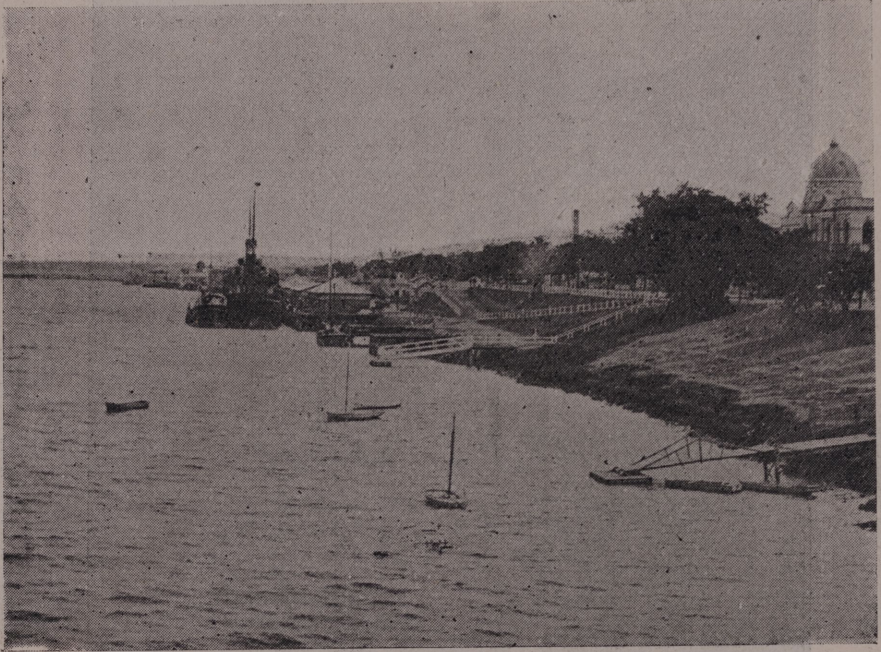
point the arrangement of those features) the descriptions here given of the different districts are to be taken as having a general application only and not as applying to every locality which, so far as the map is concerned, seems to be situated within the district under discussion.



Barron Falls, Cairns (N. Q'land).

The climate of the Queensland coast country south of the Tropic of Capricorn is for nine months of the year the finest in the world. From March to November the days decline from warm to cool and thence to cold, returning through a wonderful spring to warmth again. Of the remaining three months, the Queensland summer, all Australia has something to say. All Australia south of Queensland tells of the heat of Brisbane, the capital of Southern Queensland. Brisbane in its turn tells of Rockhampton, the city of "Sin, Sweat, and Sorrow," and of sheets of brown paper scarcely and insufficiently separating it from the nether regions. The Rockhamptonite pauses in his midsummer game of cricket to speak of the unfortunate inhabitants of Townsville and the North scorching beneath the unwinking gaze of the tropical sun; but Townsville is too busy with its summer race meeting, and Cairns with its sugar and coffee

plantations, to do more than suggest that the demand for heat, the unspeakable heat of Queensland, may be found in New Guinea or some island under the Line. The unbearable heat of the Queensland summer is the great Australian solar myth, the pursuit of which has taken me, I notice, beyond the limits of the Southern Queensland presently under discussion.



Fitzroy River, Rockhampton.

Summer in Brisbane is, if anything, something less in temperature than that of either Sydney or Melbourne, but its duration is greater than that of the summers of the southern capitals. Nowhere in Southern Queensland, Victoria, or New South Wales is there any prolonged period of heat. What are known as "heat waves" pass over the States, causing oppressive days, and sometimes nights, for at longest a week in succession. Then follows some quick climatic change, in the shape, in Queensland generally, of a thunderstorm or monsoonal rains from the north-east, and a re-establishment of normal summer weather—to wit, a morning increasing in warmth until noon, and then decreasing under the influence of a sea breeze to the comfort of a cool or even chilly night. The periods of liability to these heat waves increase with the decreasing latitudes, as does also north of Brisbane the normal summer temperature.

The best test of the severity of the weather during these recurring periods of heat is to be found in the attitude adopted towards these warm days by the people of Queensland themselves. They indeed find nothing serious in the situation. Daily vocations and

amusements are followed with unabated vigour. To the worker or sportsman it is merely a matter of a harder day's work or a less enjoyable day's sport, but neither worker nor sportsman ever see in the sudden access of heat a valid reason for the alteration of their daily scheme of life.

A greater store of philosophy is needful to those whose habitations by the sea lie north of Cape Capricorn, a headland cut by the tropical line. Into the tropical heat of the northern coast district there creeps, during the monsoonal season, a humidity which, although it engenders in the vegetable world a growth which is at once a joy and a profit to the sugar planter, produces in the human plant a most undesirable tendency to perspiration and kindred discomforts. For some eight months of the year, however, the Northern Queenslander may renew his store of philosophy against the day of affliction in weather which is a constant source of wonder and enjoyment to ever-increasing numbers of winter tourists from the other Australian States. The fashionable prescription in Sydney or Melbourne for the restoration to health of jaded business men or society women is the sea voyage from Brisbane to Cairns, and the calm waters of the Barrier seas rarely fail to give the desired relief.

To those who hope, however, to make their home in Queensland, the climate of the North is of comparative unimportance, the proximity of the capital, the larger markets of the southern States, and the greater abundance of available agricultural land, combining for the present at least to render Southern Queensland the more likely home for intending emigrants. With a parting reminder that even in North Queensland white men, colonials and Britishers, are daily engaged without injury to their health in manual toil, we return to the more important portion of the State.

As we have already noted the coast ranges of Queensland are flanked by high plateaus, and these plateaus possess a climate essentially different from that of the coast districts. The main characteristic of the weather on "the Downs," as the plateaus are called in Southern Queensland, is the absence of humidity, a feature which renders it an ideal climate for persons suffering from pulmonary ills. The summer is a period of hot, but dry days, and of cold still nights. In winter the mild warmth which has by noon obliterated the memory of the past night's 10° of frost, is too often rudely dismissed by the piercing blasts of a west wind which carries more real discomforts for British visitors than the fiercest rays of our summer sun. English people feel the cold of Queensland very intensely, and that although accustomed in the Old Country to the snow and sleet, which are almost, if not absolutely, unknown to Queenslanders.

In lower latitudes the plateaus of Queensland, although their weather conditions resemble generally those of the Downs country already referred to, suffer less severely from these winter winds, and there are those who name the Herberton-Mareeba district, some 800 miles north of Brisbane, as possessing the most equable and pleasing climate in Queensland, its latitude giving it immunity from



A Homestead at Warra, Western Queensland.



Another View.



Crop of Canary Seed Stooked at Hermitage State Farm, near Warwick.



Stooking Wheat near Yangan, Mt. Sturt, Killarney Line.

frost, while its altitude prevents any great increase in temperature. The hill country of both Northern and Southern Queensland offer advantages for summer residence which the people of the sea coast have not been slow to avail themselves of, and by dividing their time equally between coast and mountain residences, the Queensland moneyed classes leave themselves little, if any cause of complaint against the weather god.

There remains for discussion what we in Queensland call the "Back country," the long flats and rolling downs which lie to the west of the plateaus. Of this portion of the State the weather



**Artesian Bore at Cronin's Farm, Barcaldine, Central Queensland.
Flow, 800,000 gals. in 24 hours.**

report is not so inviting. Tersely, the climate is, in summer, hot and dry, and in winter cold and dry. Its main feature is its dryness, both as regards its small annual rainfall and as regards that absence of humidity which renders its air so salutary to consumptives. Although from time to time the thermometer readings record what would in a coast climate be extreme heat, there is, owing to this lack of moisture in the air, little or no oppressive feeling experienced from the increased temperature, and notwithstanding the force and intensity which the unbroken stretches of plain give to the west winds of winter, in Queensland at least the western climate is not regarded as forming a serious part of the disadvantages of a residence in the Back country. The summer heat increases as the Tropic of

Capricorn is past, but from the New South Wales border to the Gulf, white men are daily doing white men's work in Central Queensland.

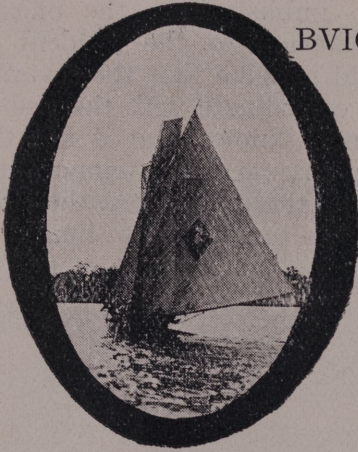
My readers will note that I have refrained from giving any temperature readings. The omission has been intentional, as mere figures might and probably would give an exaggerated idea to British readers of the heat of the State, or some portions of it. Those people, however, to whom statistics are attractive, may find interest in the climatological figures for Queensland, published in the official handbooks of the State. A word of caution to the student of those figures is necessary, lest he should imagine that the severity of the heat in this State is in every case co-ordinate with the rise in temperature, whereas, as every Queenslander knows, that is not the case, the amount of discomfort arising from any particular temperature depending on many conditions other than its thermal degree, the chief of such conditions being the proportionate amount of humidity in the air.



"Observatory" (Old Mill), Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.

CHAPTER II.

THE DWELLING PLACE.



OBVIOUSLY the first need of every newcomer to Queensland is a place where he may lay his head. The resting place immediately required is generally of a temporary nature only, and is sought in an hotel or a boarding house. Thanks to a rigid enforcement of liquor laws, which, to the suppression of dram shops and gin palaces, make the issue of a spirit license conditional upon the provision upon the licensed premises of proper sleeping and other accommodation for a fixed number of guests, the State's hotels offer excellent living facilities to visitors. Erected under the supervision and subject to the approval of the Licensing Courts, the licensed houses in the larger centres of population are an excellent testimonial to the care and vigilance of those Courts in the public interest. Every good hotel, of which there are two or three at least in every town of 1000 inhabitants, will probably have a smoking room, writing room, several sample rooms, and a drawing room, all available without extra charge to its



Queen Street, Brisbane, looking East.

guests, together with adequate sleeping accommodation for anything from 15 to 50 lodgers, while its sanitary and other conveniences will, under penalty of refusal by the Licensing Court to continue the license at the next annual licensing sittings, be of the best style available.

The dietary scales vary with the reputation and clientèle of the various hotels, but in the principal towns the leading bonifaces leave but little cause of complaint from a gastronomic standpoint.

Tariffs range from 10s. per day and £3 3s. per week—the usual charge at all leading hotels in the State—down to 4s. per day and 25s. per week. The coffee palace system of separate payment for bed and meals has not been adopted to any appreciable extent in Queensland, although it has attained considerable popularity in the southern States. The tariffs do not include wines or spirits, nor washing, but hot and cold baths are available without charge at all hours, the bathrooms being very often special features in the hotel equipment. Most of the hotels employ runners, who are in abundant evidence on the arrival of mail trains and steamers. In many instances the hotel proprietor also provides a free conveyance for his guests and their luggage from and to the railway station or wharf. The system of tipping is in moderate force only in the State; the question of “tip or no tip” being as yet unfettered by any fixed custom.

The American system of permanent hotel life has attained a certain vogue in Queensland, hotel keepers making very material reductions where rooms are taken for any lengthy period. The factors operating to retard the expansion of the system are its disadvantages as regards the education, in its widest sense, of children, and a growing tendency toward the establishment of suburban homes well removed from the scene of the daily toil.

The boarding houses of Queensland are like those of the Old World, and life therein differs but little from life under similar conditions in England, after allowance is made for that absence of reserve or formality, and that ready cordiality towards casual acquaintances, which are such noticeable features of colonial life. The range of tariffs in boarding houses is wider than that of hotels, varying as it does from the £2 2s. per week of the most select establishments to the 15s. per week of the rough-and-ready workman's lodgings, “three good meals and a bed—all found.” Lodgers rarely board themselves, and the general rule is that there is a common table for all the boarders, and that meals are fixed rather than movable feasts. Like the hotels some of the boarding houses, especially those of the poorer sort, employ runners to solicit custom on the arrival of trains and steamers. The better class of house, however, relies for its patronage upon newspaper and book advertisement.

In addition to the regular boarding houses many private persons increase the family exchequer by taking one or two boarders, or, as they are euphemistically termed, “paying guests.” Excellent board and lodging can often be thus obtained at an expense of from £1 to 25s. per week, the latter figure being also the rate generally charged per week by the better boarding houses for a single room and board. Where not, as most frequently happens, a matter of

mutual arrangement between friends, these "paying guests" are secured through the medium of the advertising columns of the daily Press.



Building a New Home in the Bush

The Englishman's desire for a home to call a castle is quite unaffected by his transplanting to the Antipodes, and our newcomer will be claimed by hotel and boarding house for as short a period as he can make possible. If he has not espoused Burn's philosophy—

To make a happy fireside clime
For weans and wife—
That's the true pathos and sublime
O' human life!—

he at least has a definite opinion that, to use the common phrase, he wants a "place of his own." And that "place," or "home," as I prefer to call it, he proceeds to get without undue delay.

Before discussing the acquisition of the dwelling, it may be as well to point out that Queenslanders are financially like the conies, "a feeble folk," 99 per cent. of the adult male proportion being daily engaged in working for their livelihood, and that the homes of Queensland are, for the most part, modest and unpretentious. There are, of course, many persons in Queensland who are possessed of ample fortunes, but up to the present there seems to have been little or no desire on the part of our plutocrats to write their record in stone. It is doubtful whether there is any private house in the State upon the mere erection of which its owner expended £10,000. Houses costing £5000 and upwards are few and far between, and it is safe to say that in not more than two per cent. of the dwelling-places of Queensland did the contract price for the completion of the building exceed £1000.

Returning, however, to our seeker for a home, we find that he will, as in other countries, have three alternatives before him. He

may rent a dwelling-place; purchase one already built; or, having purchased a site to his choice, erect a house in accordance with his own requirements. Houses of almost every description and of correspondingly varying rental values are generally to let in the more populous towns. In agricultural centres it is, however, difficult at times to rent a house, the supply of dwelling-places being insufficient to meet the demand. The erection of dwelling-places for letting purposes is, however, a favourite mode of investment in the State, and a substantial tenant who is prepared to pay a good rent for an extended term has little difficulty in finding some landowner prepared to undertake a moderate expenditure in house erection in return for a reasonable profit thereon. Rentals, as in all countries, vary with the advantages offered by the premises rented. Suburban rents are lower than those centrally situated, and seaside rates vary with the seasons. The landlord looks to get from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent. on the total cost of his house and land, clear of all expenditure on his part for rates, repairs and insurance. As a general rule if the value of the property exceeds £1250 to £1500 his hopes are hardly realized, while on the other hand, properties of a value of less than £500 give, if conveniently situated, an excellent return on the amount invested. For an unfurnished house £2 per week is considered a high rental, £3 being regarded as the extreme limit. In the words of the leading house estate agent in Queensland, "You couldn't get more for a palace." The better class house in the suburbs can be obtained at from £1 5s. to 30s. per week, according to size and situation, if taken for a reasonable term, and workmen's cottages range in weekly rentals from 5s. to 12s. 6d., proximity to centres of employment being a significant factor in determining rental values of the last-mentioned properties.

In dealing with the purchase versus erection question as regards dwelling houses one cannot ignore the saying "Fools build houses, and wise men dwell in them," and it can safely be said that in hardly any case of a sale does the house *per se* realize the amount expended upon it. The reason is not far to seek. Ready-made houses, like ready-made clothes, will not fit every one, and the failure of the purchaser to accord with the vendor in the worth of the conveniences offered by the property for sale is doubtless the main cause of the apparent deterioration in value. Where the loss is considerable it can generally be shown that the house itself is either inconveniently arranged, inaccessibly situated, or otherwise undesirable as a dwelling-place, or that some unforeseen circumstances have compelled the owner to a forced sale, a matter of almost certain loss in a scarcely populated country. On the other hand, the builder of a new dwelling can suit his own views as to the site and arrangement of his home, subject always to the probability of a loss in the event of a sale, should his views as to dwelling-houses differ very widely from those of the rest of the community. In short, there is probably more economy in the purchased house, and more comfort in the erected one. The rental value, of course, mainly determines the figure at which house-owners are prepared to become sellers, the capitalization being made at from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent., according as varying circumstances dictate.

The main building material in Queensland is wood. Stone and brick are also available, but the cost of erection in those materials considerably exceeds that in wood. Roofs are covered occasionally with wooden tiles or shingles, with earthenware tiles, or even slates, but the chief roof covering is galvanized iron—Kipling's

Thin tin crackling roofs.

Every house is erected upon piles or stumps, which are capped with tin to protect the upper woodwork from the attacks of a termite generally called the "white ant," which swiftly destroys the centre of any soft wood without breakage of the surface, but which is unable to operate upon the metal surface of the cap. To avoid giving the termite any means of ingress through the cap the bottom wall plates are not spiked to the stumps, the edifice resting in position by its own weight. Specifications usually provide that the piles and framework of the house, together with such walls as are exposed to the weather, shall be of hardwood, a timber impervious to the attacks of the termites, and as durable as any timber in the world. The internal walls of the house and the lining of the exterior walls are generally carried out in pine or other soft wood. Flooring is for the most part done in beech, ash, or hardwood. In many houses the internal walls consist of single partitions of tongued and grooved boards rendering conversations somewhat too easily audible in adjoining rooms. Doors and fanlights are made indiscriminately of wood or glass to meet the particular requirements of the building as to light and air. The French light is, perhaps, the most popular form of door, and in the better class house balance windows, many descending right to the



A Typical Western Home.

floor, are frequently in evidence. Every dwelling, no matter how humble, has its verandah, or covered balcony on the ground floor, and, in some cases, the whole building is surrounded by these verandahs. These balconies were at one time built at a considerable width, extending, in some cases, for a distance of 12 feet for perhaps the whole length and depth of a dwelling. The method more recently adopted by architects is to reduce the general width of the verandah to some 6 to 8 feet, except in one particular position, where it is increased to perhaps 12 or 14 feet, thus creating a pleasant sitting place in summer weather. The height to which the stumps or piles have elevated the ground floor necessitate, especially where there are children in the household, the enclosing of the balcony by verandah rails, which are usually of a decorative pattern wrought in either iron or wood. All exterior woodwork receives ordinarily three coats of oil paint, the interior of the building being often similarly treated. The excellent appearance, however, of the dressed pine renders it possible for the builder to dispense with the painting, should he so desire, of a considerable portion of the interior walls. The land surrounding each house is securely fenced, in most cases by a split-paling fence about 4 feet 9 inches in height, broken as a rule in the front or entrance portion of the land by a few rods of sawn picket fencing, the sawn fencing and the gates being generally painted white.

Possessing in general the common elements above described the better class of dwellings in Queensland vary with the tastes and requirements of their owners. In the less expensive form of habitation there is, however, a recognized gradation of stereotyped dwelling houses which rises in the following steps:—

1. Four-roomed cottage, two bedrooms, parlour, and kitchen.
2. Four rooms and kitchen, the dining room being distinct from the parlour, an improved specimen of this class having a half hall dividing the two front rooms.
3. Four rooms, kitchen and servant's room. The hall may now run the full length of the house, and the verandahs creep round the sides. Pantries and bathrooms now also make their appearance.
4. Six rooms, three on each side of a hall, kitchen, servant's room, pantry, and bathroom. Verandahs now appear in front and on each side, and also in front of kitchen and servant's room.

Of houses which provide a larger accommodation than that afforded by (4), no particular form or style can be predicated, shape and size depending upon the desires and pecuniary resources of the person building.

To those who are not sufficiently equipped with the sinews of war to enable them to erect as elaborate a dwelling place as they would wish, there is in Queensland no lack, in a proper case, of financial assistance. Building societies are to be found in every town, and the banks, which are in this State mainly money-lending institutions, readily advance moneys on freehold securities. Moreover, first

mortgage on freehold properties is an investment permitted by the law of Queensland relating to trusts, and in the necessary absence in a young country of the investment stock so dear to the British trustee, the bulk of the trust moneys in this State are available for loan upon improved real estate. Care is, however, exercised by the lender, whether society, bank, or trustee, that the security is sufficient to carry the loan, a one-third margin on a strict valuation being always required. Trustees or private persons usually stipulate that the loan shall not be repaid until the determination of the term, generally from three to five years, and the rate of interest required runs from 5 to 7 per cent. Banks advance moneys repayable at any moment,



A Better Class of Residence.

and charge interest on the daily balances only at from 7 per cent. upwards. The building societies, whose operations are very extensive, provide for repayment in monthly instalments of principal and interest, the term of the loan often exceeding ten years. For a loan of £100 the charges of a leading Brisbane society are £1 per month, the payments continuing for thirteen years. Other societies in the State offer similar terms, the monthly payments varying with the length of the term. Bowkett societies, conducted upon the lines established in England, have also attained some measure of popularity.

Thanks to an excellent system of land registration, the preparation of mortgages of freehold properties is attended with but little expense. Banks and building societies make no charge for procuration fees or for the preparation of the necessary legal documents, the borrower's sole expense being the fees payable to the Government, who control the issue of all titles to real property, and make good any loss caused by the error of its officers with respect thereto. These fees consist of a stamp duty of 5s. for each hundred

pounds advanced, and a registration fee of 10s. for the first, and 5s. for the second and each succeeding title deed mortgaged, land if not split into different areas by roads, being generally comprised in a single title. Thus, the total cost of a mortgage from a bank or building society of £500 would, if there were only one title, be 35s. Where moneys are lent by private persons or trustees, the legal documents are prepared by a solicitor, whose charges will run roughly from £1 1s. to £5 5s., as the amount of the mortgage increases from £100 to £1000. If an agent obtains the loan, a procuration fee, generally $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount advanced, is also charged.



Interior of Better Class of Residence.

The conversion of the bare boards of the building into a home is, of course, a matter of the taste and abilities, pecuniary or otherwise, of the occupier. Of house furnishers there is no lack in Queensland, and their warehouses teem with goods intended to meet the wants—and purses—of purchasers of differing capacities. Broadly speaking, house furniture is somewhat less expensive in Queensland than in Great Britain, and, for the most part, somewhat inferior in quality.

That refinement of furnishing so dear to the disciples of Ruskin need not, by any means, be absent from the colonial home. Within six months from their first appearance in London or Glasgow, reproductions of the world's famous pictures will be found on sale in the windows of the Queensland picture sellers at exactly the same prices as those charged by the dealers in the Strand, while engravings of the standard works of Leighton, Tadema, Margetson, Marcus Stone,

and their compeers are here the stock-in-trade of a busy and successful class of tradespeople. The local artists, moreover, do not as yet place any exorbitant figures upon the result of their labours in water-colours or oils, while the skill of the State's process engravers is sufficient to effect pleasing, if not perfect, representations of the truth as told by the camera. The financial weakness of the people of Queensland precludes, as a rule, their acquisition of artist's proofs, or other articles of bijouterie and vertu, but there is at least no complaint to be found with the Queensland art tradesmen, either as regards the goods imported by them, or their willingness to act as indent agents for private persons of works of art, either from the Old World, or from the more easily accessible markets of India and Japan.



View in Botanic Gardens, Brisbane.

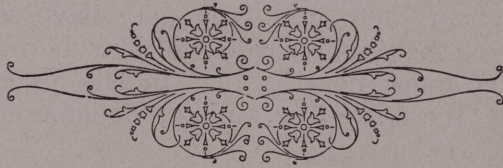
In the external decoration of the home the rich and the poor meet on equal terms. The plants and trees whose gorgeous blossoms of luxuriant foliage render Queensland the gardener's paradise, are easily within reach of the most modest purse, while the neighbourly feeling which so constantly prompts the gifts of cuttings, seeds, bulbs, and seedlings toward the newborn garden, very frequently renders the expenditure upon seeds or plants nominal only. The gardener, who is for the most part the owner of the garden—since professional gardeners are in Queensland the peculiar possession of the moneyed classes—has no limit to his choice of botanical specimens. In Southern Queensland practically every flower or shrub prized by the English

florist can be grown, and generally to amazing perfection, Eight hundred varieties of roses are to be found in a single private garden in Brisbane, and the nurserymen's catalogues show a constant stock of 500 varieties always available, at from 6s. to 10s. per dozen for well-grown worked roses. The rivalry in Southern Queensland in the cultivation of the rose is very keen. All classes of society there meet on common ground, the working man not only making his home a joy and delight to the passers-by, but competing successfully with the professionals at the horticultural exhibitions. Chrysanthemums, cactus dahlias, and carnations are also widely cultivated for show purposes, the last-mentioned flower vying with the rose for the first place of favour with the small cottager, to whom also the many-coloured pansy affords a constant pleasure. To the many available annuals, so splendid in their massing and so exquisite in their individual completeness, the limits of my available space permit but a passing reference, but it is impossible to leave the subject of ornamental horticulture in Queensland without adverting to her wonderful wealth of those flowering trees and shrubs so dear to the heart of the landscape gardener. No country or State upon the face of the globe can offer so varied or striking a display of flowering trees, and the jacarandas and flame trees filling in single trees their forty to sixty feet of height with unbroken lilac or scarlet, the bouganvillia from its single root covering with magenta forty feet of a twelve-foot terrace, the thirty cubic feet of snowy spiræa, and the thousands of yellow acres aglow with the gold of the native wattle, offer sights unsurpassed by the Old World in its whitest of apple orchards or mays, or even by the world-famed wisteria terraces and bridges of old Japan. Imagine a lilac bush 40 feet high, 100 feet wide, and 1200 feet in length, reflecting in the placid depths of a still river reach its lilac masses unbroken by the smallest green shoot, and you may have some idea of the jacaranda avenue of the public gardens of Maryborough, Queensland, and of possibly the finest floral display in His Majesty's dominions. And the jacaranda, the flame tree, and the bouganvillia are but single



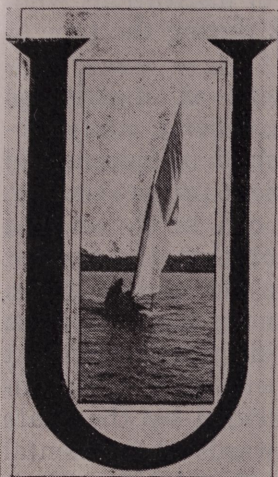
View in Botanic Gardens, Brisbane.

items in the available choice of flowering trees and creepers. The list of evergreens, too, includes many economic plants, as for instance, the passion vine, the mango, the guava, and the citrus family, while the native forests or scrubs, as they are called, can and do provide an amplitude of ferns, staghorns, and orchids for rockeries, or for the Queensland equivalent for glasshouses, lattice work buildings only partially protecting the plants from the warmth of the sun, and universally termed "bush houses." And these gardening glories are no mere potentialities, but are actually to-day gladdening the face of the State, and, one is proud to say, most constantly so round the homes of her less wealthy sons.



CHAPTER III.

THE SUCCEEDING GENERATION.



UNDOUBTEDLY in these days of declining birth rates, the first duty of the succeeding generation is to be born, a duty it performs with pleasing frequency in Queensland. The cost of the arrival of a newcomer varies with the nature of the medical aid evoked. As a rule the medical man's fees run from £3 3s. upwards, and those of the monthly nurse up to £2 2s. per week. Where the certificated midwife, a recognized institution in Queensland, provides the only professional assistance, those charges are considerably reduced, and the rules of the Friendly Societies or benefit lodges, to which so many persons in this State belong, usually limit the lodge doctor's charges in child-

birth cases to £1 1s. The establishment, moreover, of public lying-in hospitals affords the most highly-skilled medical attendance free of any charge to the accouchements of the poorer classes. In the cities and towns there is, of course, no scarcity of immediate medical

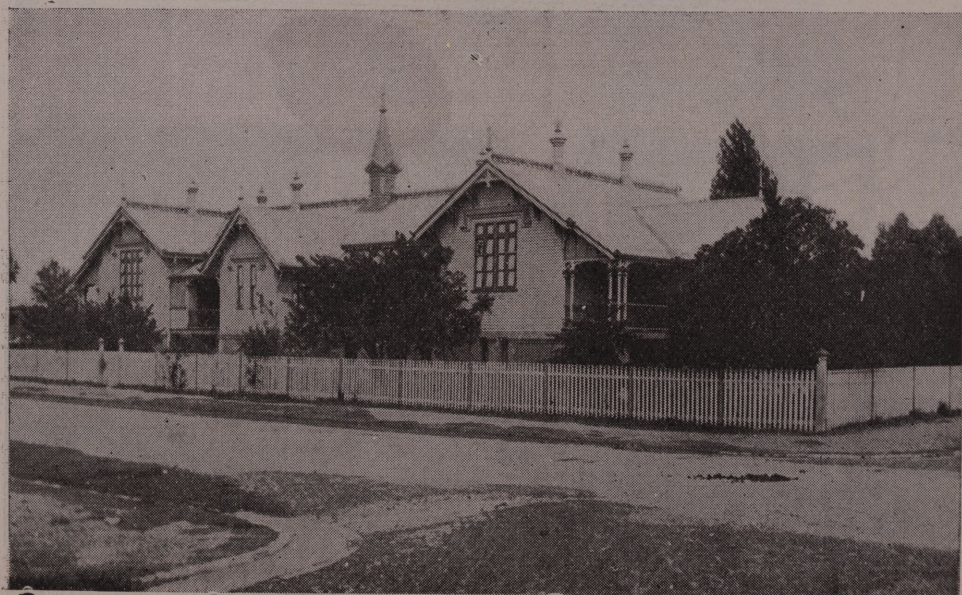


Provisional School in the Bush.

help for all ailments, and the temporary lack of such help in the more remote portions of the State is more than compensated for by the skill and practical sympathy of the people of the Australian bush, it being a well-established point of honour that the delay in obtaining the services of a medical man shall not be attributable to any lack of effort on the part of the sufferer's neighbours or of their horseflesh. In every town there are to be found also persons or institutions who, at most reasonable rates, receive country visitors during the time of their confinement.

The schooling of the young Queenslander becomes at an early age a State matter, and the State education is free, secular, and compulsory. From the age of six to twelve every child in Queensland must attend some school, or be in receipt of efficient private tuition, for at least sixty days in each half year, unless it can be shown that the absence from school is caused by sickness, or that the nearest State school is more than two miles distant from the child's home. The responsibility for the attendance attaches under the Education laws to the parents, who are liable to fine, and in default of payment thereof, to imprisonment, in the event of their permitting their offspring to neglect the educational advantages provided by the State without making some other adequate efforts towards their mental training. This compulsory schooling is given to the children absolutely without charge, the Department of Public Instruction expending annually some £300,000 without receiving a penny of resultant income in the form of tuition fees. The system of public education is entirely secular—"godless" is the expression sometimes used—experience showing that the absence of sectarian teachings has been and is a strong factor in the universal popularity of the Government schools.

The main object of the State instruction is the imparting of the three great keys to all knowledge usually known as the three Rs



South Brisbane State School.

the Education Act, however, providing that the subjects of instruction in the primary schools shall be as follows :—

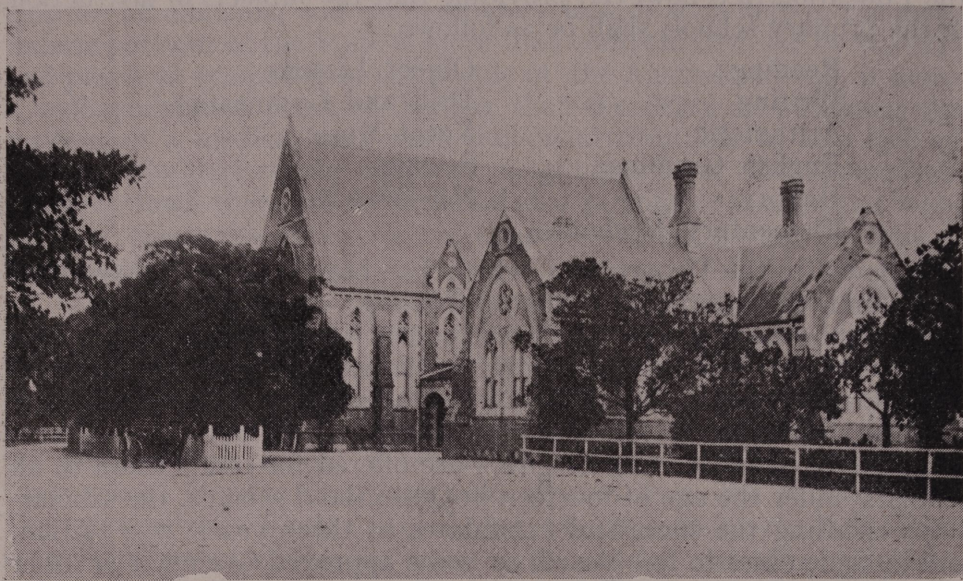
Reading	Object Lessons
Writing	Drill and Gymnastics
Arithmetic	Vocal Music
English Grammar	Sewing
History	Needlework
Elementary Mechanics	

with power to the Department, which has been frequently exercised, to extend the curriculum thus established.

But the Government of Queensland is by no means willing that the education of her youth, however straitened their private circumstances, should be confined to the instruction imparted in the primary schools. Every year forty-four scholarships and bursaries—thirty-three for boys and eleven for girls—are offered for competition to all scholars under the age of fourteen in Queensland schools, the scholarships entitling the successful candidates to three years' free tuition, and in some cases to free board, at some approved Grammar or other secondary school. A still higher grade of free education may be obtained through the medium of certain additional scholarships, about



The late Hon. T. J. Byrnes.



Boys' Grammar School, Brisbane.

twenty in all, offered both by the State and the secondary schools themselves, and carrying the privilege of two further years free tuition in the higher schools; and, to properly complete this scholastic survival of the fittest, three state exhibitions of £300 each (£100 per annum for three years) are annually open to all Queensland students under the age of nineteen years. To this constant recognition by the State of intellectual merit many prominent men in Queensland are indebted for the whole of their scholastic training, a notable example of this happy combination of State opportunities and individual ability to make use of them appearing in the life history of the lamented Hon. T. J. Byrnes, ex-Premier of the State.

Although Queensland, with a population of little more than half a million, possesses 1023 free schools, she by no means claims primary education as a State monopoly. No less than 171 private persons or institutions are daily throughout that State supplementing the labours of the Department of Public Instruction, and in ninety per cent. at least of the private schools of the State the curriculum commences at the lowest rung of the ladder of learning. Some of the most successful private ventures are those which undertake the duty of feeders to the Grammar schools and attract the children of the wealthier classes, these schools competing with the State schools for the first Government scholarships already referred to. As regards the comparative standards of these private preparatory schools and the free schools, the meeting of their respective pupils on the common ground of the Grammar school classes give results, so far as regards the common subjects of tuition, greatly in favour of the State institutions. The private schools, however, add to the range of common training a fair grounding in Latin, French, or German. Some few only of the private schools undertake to offer the complete

education afforded by the State-endowed Grammar Schools, and, if we except the schools conducted by the fathers of the Roman Catholic Church, the issues of the competition between the scholars of the private and Grammar schools have been so far decidedly favourable to the latter. The educational standard of the Catholic secondary schools, however, is equal to that of the best of the Grammar Schools, and the Government have recently testified to its merits by a provision that the three years' tuition given by their scholarships may be received in those schools.

The secular element of the State education is, of course, absent from the realms of private tuition and the Church of England, as well as the Catholic Church, maintain their own educational institutions, in which religious instruction is given according to the creeds of those churches. So, too, in most of the undenominational private schools, religious teaching of a non-sectarian nature forms part of the daily work. The religious education of the young also receives careful attention by the various religious sects, Sunday schools being attached to practically every church or chapel in the State. The Christian Endeavour Societies have received much encouragement in their labours amongst the children, and the Young Men's Christian Association and similar institutions have merited very favourable recognition for their good work in Queensland.

The establishment of the Boarding school is beyond the scope of the State's functions. The State schools are entirely day schools, and the receipt of boarders by the endowed Grammar schools is the private undertaking of the trustees or head masters of such schools. Private enterprise has not, however, been idle, and in addition to many excellent residential schools conducted by private persons, each of the ten big Grammar schools of the State have incurred large expenditures to provide for the accommodation of their resident pupils. The advantages offered by the ladies' seminaries of the State are particularly good, the moral tone of those schools being high, the social atmosphere refined, the dietary scale liberal and of good quality, and the health conditions for the most part unexceptional. Particular reference may be made to the boarding schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy throughout the State, these schools enjoying the well-deserved patronage of all classes of religionists.

Tuition fees in the preparatory schools range from £1 1s. to £3 3s. per quarter according to the age of the pupil and the quality of the teaching bestowed. The Grammar and other secondary schools receive from £3 3s. to £4 4s. per quarter. A universal practice permits a slight reduction in the fees payable for two or more brothers attending a school at the same time. The quarterly rates for residential students run from £12 12s. to £21, the variance depending upon the age of the boarder, and the nature of the accommodation provided. For boarding purposes each quarter is held to consist of a period of ten weeks, an additional charge being generally made in cases in which the pupil continues to live at the school during the whole or part of the twelve weeks devoted by the school customs to vacations. All school fees are payable in advance.

The standard of secondary education is set by the Grammar schools, which are ten in number, and are controlled by boards of trustees, one half of whom are for the most part elected by subscribers to the school funds, the remaining members being appointees of the Government, the State having contributed and still contributing largely to the establishment and maintenance of these schools. The full school course is usually five years, and the subjects of instruction are Latin, Greek, French or German, mathematics (including advanced courses in arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, and also mechanics, trigonometry, and conic sections), English language and literature, history, ancient and modern (including European history), bookkeeping, inorganic chemistry, physics and other semi-scientific subjects, to which is added, in the case of girls, a thorough musical education. The methods of tuition are modern and scholarly, and the constant successes of the Queensland students, when pitted against the pupils of the neighbouring States in the examinations held by the Sydney and Melbourne Universities, give annual evidence of the high standard of efficiency maintained in the secondary schools of the State. The educational ability of the teaching staffs, both male and female, of the Brisbane Grammar School is renowned throughout the Australasian States, and the keen rivalry between that school and the other secondary schools, annually evinced in the competition for the Queensland exhibitions, have brought the higher branches of school education in Queensland to a pitch unequalled in any other State in the Commonwealth.

The Queensland University, a much discussed subject, is as yet an unaccomplished fact, and the university life of the Queenslander is perforce spent in one of the Southern capitals, unless the wishes



Girls' Grammar School, Brisbane.

of his parents should send him to renew family traditions on the banks of the Isis or the Cam. The generosity of the late Cecil Rhodes has made provision that one Queenslander at least may annually increase the roll of students of the Universities of which he and Jowett are the widely divergent celebrities.

If exception is made of the town and gown rows, those outcomes of class distinctions unknown in Australia, student life in the University colleges of Melbourne and Sydney is cast in much the same mould as that in England's classic universities. There are, however, in both Sydney and Melbourne, large numbers of students, termed in University parlance "out patients," who, after the fashion of the



One of the Students at the Queensland Agricultural College, Gatton.

Edinburgh student, do not reside in the University colleges, but find what they call their "diggings" in the many adjacent lodging houses.

Living, in the case of University "out patients," is extremely cheap, and experience shows that, with strict economy, the £100 per annum exhibitions granted by the Queensland Government are sufficient to defray both the living expenses and the University fees of the holders. The Queensland exhibitor has also a happy knack of possessing himself of the rich scholarships offered by the different University colleges, and thus obtaining for himself the more complete enjoyment of University life. It is said that the present income, derived entirely from scholarships and exhibitions, held by one bright Queenslander totals £300 per annum.

Educationally, the University schools of Sydney and Melbourne are very strong, especially upon the medical side, and no effort is spared to keep the work of tuition well abreast of the advancements in science and general knowledge.

To a country blessed as Queensland in its natural resources there is a peculiar advantage in the technical training of her people, and the action of the State in this direction is hardly less vigorous than in the more theoretical spheres already outlined. Numerous State-endowed technical colleges impart practical training in the trades most useful in a young and undeveloped country. A State agricultural college inculcates the principles which underlie the secret of farming for profit, and the mineral prospects of the country grow daily brighter in the light of the improved mining methods demonstrated by a well-equipped School of Mines. To children also of a larger growth scientific instruction is offered in those pursuits which make for the prosperity of the State, Government experts of the



Peach Trees at the Hermitage State Farm, near Warwick, Q'land.

highest attainments offering practical advice—and ocular demonstration—in general agriculture, fruit growing, viticulture, dairying, and poultry raising. The services of all or any of the Government experts may at any time be successfully invoked, absolutely free of charge, by the poorest citizen, and their prompt attention to the constant calls upon their time from all parts of the State renders these experts the hardest worked of the public servants. Some idea of the attitude of the Government towards the agricultural population may be gained from the fact that their expert in sugar growing enjoys a salary of £3000 per annum and a liberal travelling allowance.



Apple Tree, "Prince of Pippins," at Hermitage State Farm, near Warwick.



Pineapple Plantation at Nudgee, near Brisbane.



Carting Pineapples to Market. Atthow's Plantation, Nudgee, near Brisbane.



Crop of Grapes (White), grown at Stanthorpe



Sugarcane growing at Qunaba Plantation, Bundaberg.



Irrigating Drain through Fairymead Plantation, Bundaberg.

In Charles Kingsley's inimitable "Waterbabies" there is a quaint little episode, with a very important moral tagged on to it, of the transmutation of the over-educated child into the turnip with little but water inside, and a perusal of these notes on the educational systems of the State, might perhaps induce a belief that the Queensland Government and its teachers too closely resembled the cramming parents of that highly instructive anecdote. Such fears are, however, quite groundless. The opportunities for recreation afforded to the

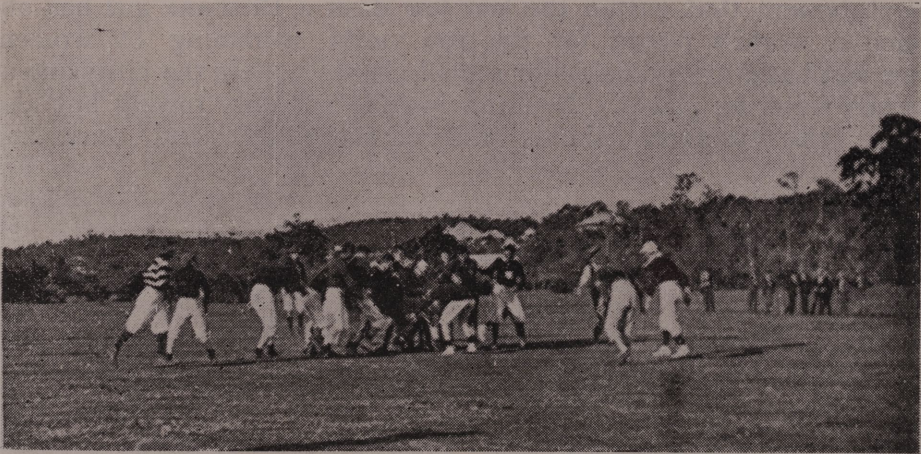


The Young Cricketer.

children of Queensland are more than sufficient to satisfy the mind of even the child-loving author of "Waterbabies." School hours are but from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., while for two days in each week and for at least three months in each year the bright-eyed youngsters of Queensland are entirely freed from the troubles of dominie and tawse. And for the means of amusement the Queensland State school boy is never at a loss. A vacant allotment, a sixpenny indiarubber ball, an empty oil drum, and a discarded axehandle, provide recreation for a dozen budding Trumbers or Trumbles, while the green fields and shady scrubs, the rivers and creeks, and the "long wash of Australasian seas" offer endless possibilities of childish joys in this world of kindly skies.

A remarkable feature in child life in Queensland, as in all Australia, is the precocity of children with respect to sport. My lad of eight years old is a member of a cricket team which issues challenges, to infants of like tender age, to compete in matches which are carried out with all the solemnity of an England v. Australia fixture. He knows by name, and by sight, the leading cricketers and footballers of the State, and his quick eyes detect a chance at the wicket or a bit of offside play with the confident knowledge of the expert. There are those who see in this aptitude for sport an inherent weakness in the Australian character. Others more optimistic regard it as an excellent preventive against the possible evils of too strenuous a system of State education.

The attitude of the secondary schools towards all healthy recreation is extremely friendly. Cricket, football, and rowing are



Game of Football, Brisbane

the subjects of annual contests between the leading schools, while the annual school sports provide the gala day of the year. Cadet corps are to be found in every school of any dimensions, whether primary or more advanced, and the liberality of the authorities towards these corps in the matter of ammunition has resulted in a very satisfactory state of efficiency of their rank and file upon the rifle ranges.



Opening of Yachting Season, Brisbane, River, 1904.

Not only have the Brisbane Grammar School boys repeatedly shown their superiority with the rifle over the schools of the other Australasian States, but they recently won the first Empire Cadets Rifle match open to all cadet corps in his Majesty's dominions.

Gymnastics form a compulsory part of the curriculum of all the large schools, and during the last few years swimming clubs and classes, both male and female, have become most popular. The success attending the ladies' swimming classes may be judged from the statement that within the last few days a Brisbane girl has obtained a world's record for the 100 yards swimming by women. Excellent baths are available for school classes both in the cities and at various watering places. Aquatics include not only rowing but also sailing, the numerous islands fringing the Queensland coast and



Ready for the Road.



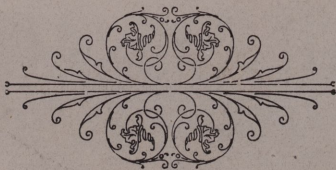
Mango Tree, near Brisbane.



Strawberry Plantation, Blackall Range, North Coast Line.

the wide estuaries which form the mouths of her rivers providing sailing grounds only rivalled by the wonders of Port Jackson. The mildness of the climate renders an outdoor life always practical, and the proximity to every settlement of the barely explored forests and scrubs, teeming with bird and insect life, afford a constant possibility of those adventures so dear to British boyhood.

The internal organization of the secondary schools differs considerably from that of the British public school, the great majority of the pupils being day boys, and there being no separate houses for the accommodation of resident pupils, and little or no consequential rivalry between boarders and day scholars. The fagging system is unknown, while the spirit of equality amongst all the lads, from the oldest to the youngest, entirely precludes the adoption of the monitorial or prefect method of control as established in the English public schools. Bullying, though not unknown, is considered "bad form," and the excessive delight of the bully in the sufferings of his victim is considered just cause for his own chastisement by some more humane lad of equal strength. The intricate codes of British school boy honour have been imported in their entirety into, and perpetually flourish in all the large Queensland schools, and on the whole there is little doubt that an English lad transplanted to Australia, would undoubtedly find that, as regards both school and holiday life, his lines had indeed fallen in pleasant places.



CHAPTER IV.

THE FAMILY COMMISSARIAT.



F, as some economic writers hold, the true wealth of a country depends upon the extent of her natural food supplies, Queensland with her limitless potentialities in the production of grain and fruit, meat and butter, should take high rank among the opulent lands of the earth. The State possesses vast internal supplies of good, cheap, and varified forms of food, the connection between the consumer and producer being effected in the case of town dwellers almost entirely by the efforts of the tradesmen, suburban and country residents becoming gradually self-supporting producers as their dwellings retreat in distance from the towns and cities. The food supplying trades-

man are the milkman, who also offers eggs, butter, and occasionally vegetables; the butcher, who also purveys poultry; the baker, who is likewise the confectioner; the grocer, who may have a wine and spirit license, and also sell confectionery; and the greengrocer with his stock of fruit and vegetables. Fruit and vegetables are also the chosen stock-in-trade of large numbers of hawkers, who ply their calling not only in the larger centres, but



A Country Store.

throughout the whole State. In many towns meat and butter, although, for the most part, obtained from the regular tradesmen, are similarly disposed of from "cash carts." All goods are deliverable to the direction of the purchaser within reasonable distances free of charge, and the various tradespeople wait regularly upon the housewife to receive her orders for their goods. One month's credit is universally allowed for the payment of household bills, a liberal discount being, however, always available to the cash buyer.

Three meals suffice to dispose of the daily supply of food. The morning meal appears at any hour between 6 and 8 a.m., according to the duties or inclination of the persons fed. From 12 to 1, the artisan class, and from 1 to 2 the clerical and professional classes partake of mid-day meal, in some cases the lightest of luncheons, in others the principal meal of the day, while the sudden close of the tropical day sees the household gathered round a third meal, the mid-day lunchers' dinner, and the noon-diners' tea or supper.

Of the food appearing at these meals the principal item is meat—beef, mutton, or pork. The Queenslander is remarkable for his meat-eating capacity, which is rivalled only by powers as a tea-drinker, his achievements in that latter form of self-indulgence eclipsing even the efforts of Dr. Samuel Johnson of glorious memory. Meat of some description is the *sine qua non*, and tea the *vade mecum* of the average Queenslander's meal. Naturally bread is also eaten, sometimes in reasonable proportion to the meat consumed. Generally, however, the young Queenslanders' views on bread resemble those of Falstaff.



A Crop of Potatoes at Laidley.



The Fruit Man Calls.

Eggs, butter, cheese, fish, vegetables, sweets, and fruit are also found among the daily victuals. Porridge or other meal foods, though frequently to be found on the breakfast table, is rarely, if ever, regarded as being in itself sufficient to make the morning meal, and, eaten with sugar and milk, forms a part only of the first of the three square meals which the Queenslander considers his daily right. As regards the preparation of food, English customs and methods are followed. The roast and the boiled, the hot, the cold, and the homely hash, appear in the never-failing rotation of an older civilisation. The entrees or sweets are prepared under the instructions of Mrs. Elizabeth Beeton, and the cold rice pudding of New Farm is the same humble but healthy fare as the rice pudding of Bayswater. Except for the preponderance of meat and tea, all meals in Queensland are English meals, and are eaten in that sober, comfortable manner which characterises the feeding Briton all over the globe.

To descend to further detail, the meat for which the Queenslander has so great a predilection is in the main beef or mutton, though pork, both fresh and cured, has had during the last two years a greatly increased consumption in the State. The price of meat varies slightly with the seasons. Generally speaking, beef or mutton runs from 5d. per lb. for best cuts downwards to soup bones or sheep head, that well-known stay of Queensland as well as Caledonian homes, at 1½d. per lb. Fresh pork is purchasable from most butchers on one day at least in the week, generally in view of the Sunday mid-day repast, but the large centres are served by pork butchers with a perpetual meal of roast pork at call. Pork, when fresh, runs in price from 5d. to 6d. per lb.; when cured as bacon from 3½d. to 9d.;

and in the form of hams, equal in quality to the best products of Yorkshire, from 9d. to 1s. per lb.

Unlike the Devonshire cream, which is unprocurable in the county of Devon, the Queensland butter, whose export has become so marked a feature in Australian commercial returns, is always obtainable in the State of its production, the average price for best factory butter being about 10d. per lb. Of butter's usual adjunct, the staff of life, there is but one quality in Queensland, rich and poor alike using the white wheaten bread which returns its vendor 3d. for the 2lb. loaf. Fish is plentiful and of good quality. At present, the method of distribution of the catches is somewhat faulty, and the prices, though for the most part little in excess of the price of meat, cannot be given with any degree of reliability. Fruit, the food most constantly recommended by the medical faculty of Queensland, abounds in great variety at all seasons of the year. The Australian synonym for a Queenslander is a "Banana boy," doubtless, from the popularity which that fruit enjoys at its modest retail price of 3d.



A Fruit Plantation on Blackall Range, North Coast Line.

per dozen, a price which may be reduced by one-half to a buyer who is sufficiently venturesome to expend from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. in the acquisition from a fruit market of a whole bunch of bananas. Pine-apples, quite equal in quality to those hired out by British greengrocers for table decoration only, may be readily purchased at 1s. per dozen. Grapes fall from the prohibitive 8d. to 2d. per lb. as the season increases, and strawberries reach popular prices at 6d. per box of reputed pint size. Oranges and apples, like the proverbial poor, are always with us, and 1s. per dozen is their mean annual value. Peaches vary in quality and seasonableness, with resultant values ranging from



Cheese and Preserves Exhibit of Queensland Agricultural College at Brisbane, 1904.



Farm Produce, &c., Exhibit of Queensland Agricultural College at Brisbane, 1904.

six a penny to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. each, the latter price being admittedly exorbitant. Melons and rock melons, the latter including mush melons and kindred species of scented gourds, are in the summer time cheap enough to satisfy the views of even an American negro. A 40 lb. water or sugar melon is dear at 1s. 6d., and one expects the best of rock melons for 9d. These are, of course, retail prices, the wholesale market rates for the present month of February, 1905, being, as appears by the Press reports of the current week as follows:—Apples (local), 2s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. per case; grapes, 1d. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.; bananas, sugar, 4d. to 8d. per bunch; cavendish, 3d. to 5d. per bunch; plums 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per quarter-case; mangoes, 2s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per case; tomatoes, 1s. to 2s. per quarter-case; pineapples, rough, 1d. to 1s. per dozen; smooth, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. per dozen; pears, 7s. to 10s. per case; lemons, 9s. to 10s. per case; peaches, 3s. 3d. to 5s. 6d. per quarter-case; persimmons, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per quarter-case.

Vegetables include, in Queensland, potatoes, onions, cabbage, cauliflowers, beans of various sorts, peas, pumpkins, marrows, cucumbers, beets, lettuce, raddish, turnips, asparagus, and many others, and their prices resemble in their moderation those of the State's fruits.

The price, too, of household stores do not tend to contradict the oft-made statement that living in Queensland is cheaper than in any other "white" country in the Empire. Half a crown will purchase 25 lb. of best flour, three and six, 100 lb. of rice flour, while 28 lbs. of potatoes or 14 lbs. of onions will represent the expenditure of 6d. Rice is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.; sago, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.; tapioca, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; soap, 4d. to 6d. per bar; candles, 6d. per lb.; salt, 1d. per lb.; sugar, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3d. per lb.; tea, from 7d. to 2s. per lb.; coal, 1s. per cwt.; jam, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6d. per lb.; tinned fruit, 8d. to $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; honey, 4d. per lb.; maize meal, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; milk, 4d. to 5d. per quart; oatmeal, 1s. 2d. to



Profitable Pets.

1s. 7d. per 5 lb. bag ; pickles, 6d. to 1s.; fish (tinned), herring, 6d. to 7d. per lb. ; salmon, 8d. to 10d. per lb. ; sardines, 6d. to 7d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tin ; cheese, 3d. to 11d. per lb. ; starch, 5d. per lb. ; and coffee, 10d. to 1s. 4d. per lb.

Poultry dressed produces in the handy supply stores 4s. 6d. to 5s. per pair, the undressed article realising a little less than half those amounts in the farmers' markets. Eggs are a variable item, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1s. 6d. per dozen being the opposite ends of the scale.

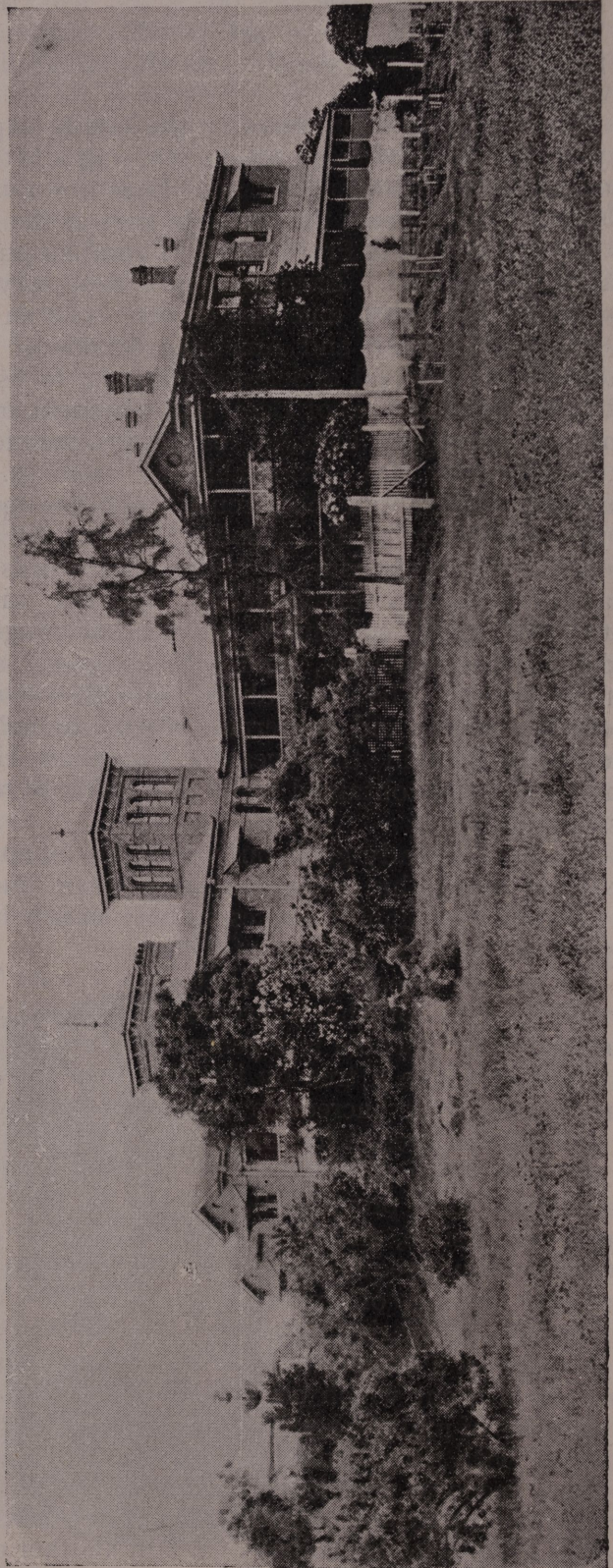
The Great Drink Problem, in its humbler purview, is of easy solution in Queensland. Excellent breweries, brewing light wholesome ales, bitter and lager, and also stouts, exist in all the larger towns. All the best British and American brands of ale or stout are also available, the colonial article realizing 6s. to 8s. per dozen Imperial quarts, while the wares of Bass and Guinness, or their Trans-Atlantic compeers, are offered at from 10s. to 17s. per dozen. Whiskey, rum, gin, and brandy are procurable at from 5s. to 7s. per Imperial quart, and benedictine, chartreuse, and other liqueurs are not wanting for the completion of the orthodox dinner. In a young country the absence of "good wines," giving the words their English connotation, is hardly unavoidable, but the wine merchants of the State offer their customers a very fair range of sound imported madeiras, port, clarets, and champagnes, at little more than London prices. The Australian States themselves provide also some excellent clarets and sauternes which, though offered at figures ridiculously low in the eyes of European vigneron, have, it is pleasing to note, obtained some considerable reputation outside the Australian States.

We have already given our visitor his liqueur, and we can, therefore, leave him to his coffee, a home product, and a good cigar, which the proximity of Manilla makes an inexpensive luxury, while we deal, very briefly with the subject of "clothes."

To a male querying, "What shall I wear" in Queensland, the unvarying reply of the interrogated Queenslander will be "Wear what you like." There is a general rule in the State, among men at least, not to judge a tree by its bark, and it is a true, if to British ideas a somewhat incredible fact, that the average Queenslander of good position dresses for dinner by exchanging his shoes for slippers. Almost invariably the clothes worn are clean (the cleanliness of all Australians being proverbial), but cut of cloth or turns of fashion, though permissible, and by the youth and elegance of the State even practised, are not required in every day business life. It is absolutely impossible to judge of a man's pecuniary or social position in Queensland from his wearing apparel. For instance, there happened to me in a lawyer's office, a middle-aged man, clad in moderately clean garments of a cut which bespoke the labouring man, minus a collar, but desirous of making a will. In giving his instructions he suggested beginning with a few small bequests, and in about two minutes had left some £3000 to various local charities before turning his attention to the more important objects of his benevolence. But all the while I looked in vain for his collar. On still another occasion I saved from expulsion as a beggar by an over-zealous clerk, a female client of

good birth who had called to advise me that she had agreed to grant an extension of a loan for £3000 which I had negotiated for her. And such instances might be multiplied enormously. In business circles, however, the right to dress badly is rather more of a privilege than a practice. Business men, though they eschew the frock coat and silk hat of Mincing Lane, wear decent tweeds, or in the summer months ducks, flannels, or drills. My client's omission in the matter of neck gear is not of common occurrence among people of his station of life, collars and ties being in point of fact almost always redeeming features in the negligé of a Queenslander's attire, the collar being invariably clean, the tie in good taste.

Evening dress at functions of State or social importance, or at public entertainments, does not differ from that in England, the daily practice of dressing for the



The Immigration Buildings, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane.

evening meal, though not unknown, being however, little used. Prices of clothes vary with a range nearly equal to those between Bond Street and Soho, the leading tailors obtaining £5 5s. to £6 6s. for a set of good tweeds. Linen and hosiery are procurable at English prices in all towns of any magnitude, and the travellers or representatives of the leading houses for men's supplies make active canvass of the outlying centres of population.

In masculine notes on female attire, discretion would seem to be the better part of valour, and it will be sufficient to say that the women of Queensland follow the English fashions as closely as their geographical location permits them. It may, perhaps, be permissible to add that, owing chiefly to the judicious example of the wives of several past Governors of the State, gross extravagance in dress is not considered good form even amongst those few people on whom the question of ways and means lays no burdens, and that to the average Queensland woman Mrs. Roosevelt's dress limit of £30 per woman per annum did not seem in any way unreasonable.

The transition over a cup of tea from the topic of dress to that of domestic servants is apparently equally easy and natural all the world over, but the conditions affecting the young persons whose vagaries are so fruitful a subject of feminine discussion, differ considerably in Queensland from those in the mother country. To begin with, the male house servant is practically unknown in private houses. In hotels and restaurants male waiters and chefs are employed, but the ordinary housework of Queensland is almost invariably performed by female labour. Then there is also an absence of that differentiation both in the status and duties of servants which is so clearly marked in the menage of an English household. In Queensland a servant is a servant—incidentally, it may be remarked that very often she considers herself the equal of her mistress in everything but present position—and all servants are between themselves equal. A good servant in a house in which two or three are kept will do her own particular work, but does not feel bound to confine her efforts to that work with the strict particularity observed by the British domestic. If the cook is unwell, the housemaid can and will act as cook. If the cook is, as generally happens in the Australian States, also the laundress, the housemaid on washing days is not debarred by any sense of dignity from occupying the kitchen. The financial feebleness already referred to of the people of the State, coupled with the high rate of wages payable for domestic aid, operates to curtail the number of servants employed in each house. The most usual menage consists of a single maid known as a general servant, who fills the joint positions of cook and housemaid, and, in some cases of laundress. Other more ambitious households employ two servants, the one of whom is the outside servant, the cook and laundress, the other the inside maid, whose duties lie with the house and pantry work, and also in some cases with the care of the children. With any increase in the number of the female servants the duties of each domestic become more defined, but it is a rare occurrence to find more than three maids permanently engaged in a private dwelling house. Male labour takes the form in its most primitive stage of a

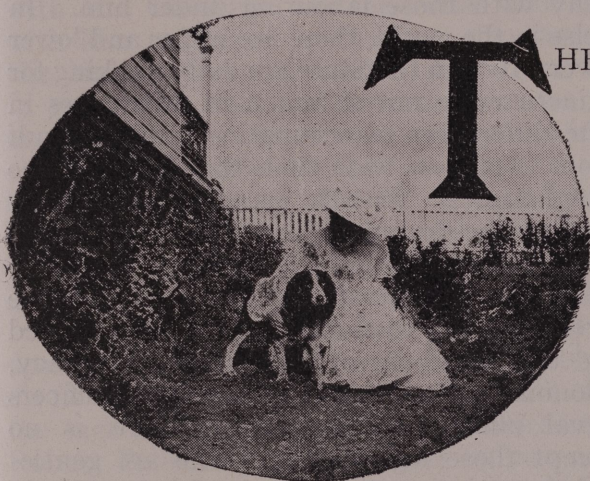
boy or lad, whose duties are to black boots, chop wood, clean knives, and tend to the garden, pony, trap, or livestock—if any—but who is not a house servant, the kitchen being the high water mark of his entry into the house. In many cases, however, the general servant is not given any male assistance, and herself performs the lighter of the duties above mentioned. More substantial households add to their staff the gardener-groom, whose duties include both horticulture and coach and stable work, while in the case of the affluent, the usual distinctions of gardener, groom, and coachman are occasionally observed. The ordinary rates of wages (inclusive of board and lodging) in private houses are as follows:—Cooks, 16s. to £1 per week; house and laundry maids, 16s. per week; laundresses, 17s. 6d. per week; general servants, 11s. 6d.; housemaids, 11s. 6d.; nursemaids, 12s. 6d. per week; house and parlour maids, 11s. 6d. per week; grooms, 16s. per week; gardeners, £40 to £50 per annum; useful lads, 7s. 6d. to 10s. per week.

The reliability of hired assistance in Queensland, and the amount of satisfaction likely to be given by servants, depends, for the most part, upon their treatment by the master or mistress of the household. Servants in Queensland are (owing to the constant opportunities of betterment offered to the lower classes by the natural resources of the country), not over abundant in number, and this scarcity of supply, added to the belief in the equality of mankind so deeply rooted in all Australians, renders them a very independent class of people. And woe to the mistress or master who seeks to break that independence, or whose treatment of them seems to emphasize unduly the existence of the gulf between employer and employed. But on the other hand they are quick to appreciate kindness, ready to watch their employer's interests, loyal and affectionate—they see no presumption in their affection—to their mistress and her family, and the willingness and cheerfulness with which they undertake any and every sort of work more than compensate for their lack in the knowledge of what the respectful British domestic terms his "place." One speaks, of course, of the colonial product, the imported article being good or bad, according to his or her earlier training in other lands.

And when dealing with household work it should be especially noted that the lady of the household in Queensland deems it her duty and pride to be a good housewife. The curriculum of the schools always include needlework, and satisfaction in personal appearance is frequently increased by the knowledge that the adorning garments are the sole handiwork of the wearer. The practical demonstration of culinary skill is recognised as a pleasurable duty by the woman-kind of all classes, who ever inculcate into the minds of their children the merit and value of all domestic accomplishments. Nor is the dignity of labour ignored by the male sex. The head of the house, ere proceeding to his brief in the Law Courts, to his merchant's desk, or even to his place at the helm of the State, digs his garden, feeds his fowls, or milks his cow with the same unconcern as to appearances with which his wife makes her beds, dusts her china, or sweeps her carpets. And their neighbours' respect for him and his wife is increased or decreased only by his or her success or **non**-success in those so called "humble" occupations.

CHAPTER V.

MAN TO MAN.



THE keynote of any discourse upon social ethics in Queensland must be that consciousness of the equality, or potential equality, of all men which is the Queenslander's vantage ground in his attitude towards the world. As every private in the armies of the Little Corporal carried a possible marshal's baton in his knapsack, and thereby fought the better,

so every Queensland lad carries in his school or dinner bag the possible insignia of the highest offices of the State. The Queenslander believes thoroughly in himself and his possibilities, and this belief permeates the whole ethical system of the State. It must, however, clearly be understood that this self confidence is no mere mental weakness—no barricades and “Liberty, Fraternity, Equality” mania—but a solid, sober conviction based upon the experiences of his daily life. He believes that he may one day be Premier of the State, because he has seen the poorest State school child, by his own unaided exertions, bring himself through school and university to the first position in the country. He believes he may sit as His Majesty's judge, because he has seen the carpenter leave his tools, and, by the sheer force of his intellectual powers, storm the chief places of the Bar and Bench. The testimony of his possibilities is constantly before his eyes. He sees money, honours, and position the daily portions of his neighbours, and unless he is a clod, which the State does its best to prevent him being, he falls into the line, both of thought and action, which has made his fellows great.

The chief evidence of this disrespect for the inequalities of life is found in the entire absence in Queensland of any attitude of servility between man and man. Civility is expected by the low from the great, and given by the low to the great, but it is expected and given entirely as a matter of courtesy and not as of right. There is no bowing and scraping and bobbing and curtesying to the Squire. The master nods to his workmen, and the workmen, if they are colonial born, nod to the master. A workman does not want or expect the master to associate with him in his home life or amusements, but in Queensland one thinks but little of the master whose dignity will not let him recognise his

workmen or employees out of work hours. Generally speaking, there is throughout the State an excellent feeling between master and man, employer and employee, due perhaps to the fact that the superior at no distant date occupied the subordinate's position, and has not in himself any inward sense of superiority. He himself is a worker, generally the hardest worker in the industrial hive, and in that he has a common bond of sympathy with those labouring under him. In Queensland, as everywhere else in the world, there are upper and lower classes, but 999 men out of every 1000 in the State are daily working for their livelihood. Class distinctions lie not so much in differences in worldly possessions as in the differences of occupation, and the gulf between the rich and the poor is far less wide than that between the working masses and the leisured classes. With the exception of some few Government pensioners spending the declining days of honoured lives upon hardly-earned retiring allowances, there is in Queensland no leisure class, and in a country where the unalienated Crown lands are counted by the million acres, and a £10 note can create a landed proprietor, the landed gentry, that backbone of the British aristocracy, sit in no place of peculiar honour. The number of her army officers is insignificant, of her naval officers infinitesimal. There is no State church, and if we except those legal workers who are gentlemen by Act of Parliament, the population of Queensland is hopelessly deficient in those persons who are wont under British skies to be called "gentlemen." "Have you no gentle folk here?" asked a British visitor. "What do you mean by gentle folk?" was the counter question. "Oh, people who do not work for their living." "Oh yes," cried the enlightened Queenslander, "we have plenty of those. But we don't call them gentle folk here, we call them loafers."

The Queenslander doesn't say—

When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?

He merely proceeds with his digging, and if he does not drop into poetry on the subject of social distinctions, quotes something more modern, in which "kind hearts" and "coronets" are the counter foils. That fastidious exquisite who declined to meet a medical man of high repute on the ground that he should not be expected to shake hands with a man who had held out his hand for fees, would in Queensland be a perambulating Stylites. No man in Queensland, or woman either, is or need be ashamed of doing any honest work, and no man need come to Queensland expecting to find leisure classes, either with or without strawberry leaves on their necks.

In a country with less than a century's history and a birth stain for an introduction, pride of birth is singularly out of place, and the Queenslander declines to dearly love a lord unless the lord himself, without his crest and ancestral hall, be really lovable. On the question of birth, he admits the truth of the saying that it is a "grand thing to come of *decent* forbears," but he gives a liberal interpretation to the qualifying adjective. All of which amounts simply to this, that every man in Queensland is judged upon his own individual worth and his place in society found by the simple rules of natural selection.

Yet Queensland is not altogether such a place as would have delighted the heart of that excellent British nobleman who figures in *The Admirable Crichton*. There are social distinctions between men and men—there will be between women and women the day after the day of judgment—and there are recognised rules as to social intercourse. Like attracts like all the world over, and so there are those who dine with the Governor and his wife, and those whose communication with him is limited to the bow they accord in the public streets to His Majesty's representative, and there is a society for the masses to get into. But, and here is the crux of the whole question, the man's right of access to your society and friendship, and to the privacy of your home, depends, not on what he *does*, whether he is butcher, baker, Government official, or barrister, but upon what he *is*. Naturally, education and professional pursuits go hand in hand, but it is the man himself and not his occupation which is to be weighed in the balance, and approved or found wanting.

The Queenslander believes in himself and profits thereby, but he does a better thing and a more profitable one in that he believes in his fellow man; believes in him not with the hero worship preached by the sage of Chelsea, but in the wholesome kindly spirit of Burns or Robert Browning. He believes in him as his friend, as his business acquaintance, or as the stranger within his gates. The Queenslander is a thoroughly kindly person who believes you to be the same, and as the world is pretty much what it is believed to be, there is in Queensland a good working capital of that neighbourly feeling which so gently softens life's little ironies, and to whose far-reaching power the Australian poet gives this tribute, out of the depths—

Oh, the pathos and the humour of the shifts of poverty!
 Oh, the sympathy of drunkards, wit and truth and charity!
 Oh, the worn-out working women and the lives that they endure,
 And the hard and callous kindness of the poor unto the poor!

(Where they blame not those who labour,
 And the outcast is a neighbour.)

Ah, the humour and the courage and the kindness of the poor!

That splendid isolation which enables the Britisher to live for ten years in a tenement house without knowing the name of the neighbour on either side of him is quite impossible, if not absolutely incredible, to the average Queenslander, who greets a stranger on sight, and whose kindly feelings find an outward expression in an almost inquisitive interest in his neighbour's doings. Long before the British tenant of one of several terrace houses had learned the name of his next-door neighbours, the Queenslander would have had a nodding acquaintance with every man, woman, and child residing in the same suburb as himself, would have ascertained the occupation and possibly the average income of each neighbour, and have formed a kindly but shrewd estimate of their personal characters.

Hospitality in Queensland is not a virtue but a merely customary duty, the neglect of which would speedily earn for the delinquent an unenviable notoriety as a "hungry"—Anglicè inhospitable—person. The records of bush hospitality are at times almost incredible. Any person passing through the back country, absolutely as of right, spends

the night and receives his evening and morning meal at the homestead of some station, and should his horses need rest, he and they take their rest there quite as a matter of course. He makes his quarters with the owner or manager of the station or with the workmen, at the house or the hut, at his own discretion, and is always cordially welcomed at either place. He joins in the evening's amusement, is provided with an excellent bed, the ordinary occupier of which retires to a sofa or the floor, eats his meals and resumes his journey aided by the best of advice as to roads and routes. The traveller presents no credentials. He may or may not mention his name or business—the writer once saw a bush visitor stay four days, eating and drinking and joining in holiday amusements before offering any information as to his name or business, which, as a matter of fact, was with the owner of the run—but never, under any circumstances, is he asked to make payment for the services rendered him.



Bush Refreshment, "Billy Tea."

But bush hospitality, wonderful though it is, is a small thing compared to bush kindness in time of trouble. The straying of a workman's child from its home into the scrub or forest at once compels the stoppage of the work of every man and boy in the district fit to make one of a search party, and a sick child, in a house or hut, will send a tired man for a 20, 30, or 40 miles ride for the doctor on the darkest and roughest night. There is hardly a station child in Queensland who has not seen his father or brother ride out into the darkness on some errand of mercy, and almost every discussion among bush children as to the merits of station horses is introduced by the query, "Supposing you had to go for the doctor."

Everyone in Queensland is constrained to help and consider his neighbour, principally by reason of the common sympathy among fellow toilers. Every man's rights and privileges are respected. Every man begins by deeming his new acquaintance worthy of respect, and this mutual recognition of worth sharpens the countenances of the people as iron sharpens iron. A good reputation is always worth keeping, and everyone in Queensland starts with a good reputation.



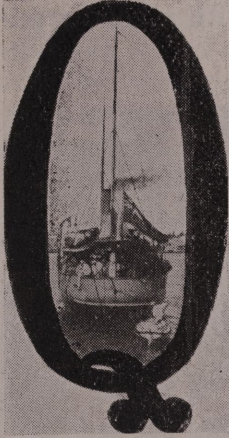
A Selector's Camp, Warra.

But although ready and willing to help and trust, the Queenslanders are no fools, no dupes ready to the hand of the rogue. The Australian natives enjoy among those who live on their wits the reputation of being the most wideawake people on the face of the globe. A clever scamp, ere returning from these shores to more congenial fields, gave a pertinent illustration. "Look," he said, "at Dowie," referring to the latter-day prophet of Zion, whose Australian misfortunes were then in everybody's mouth, "in America he can make thousands, but here in Australia *they won't stand a bar of him.*" Which is bad reading for the *chevalier d'industrie* meditating an Australian campaign.

And lastly, but not leastly, between man and man and the law which is over each and all of us, there is throughout the State freedom of speech and action to say and do all or anything which may be pleasing to us, provided that the rights and privileges of our neighbours be not injured thereby.

CHAPTER VI.

STATE ADMINISTRATION.



QUEENSLAND is, irrespective of its relation to the Commonwealth of Australia, what sociologists call a self-governing colony—that is, a colony which conducts its own affairs of state, and has full legislative powers as to all matters external or internal affecting itself and its people, subject however to a power of veto reposing in a Governor, who is His Majesty's representative, and who receives his appointment from Downing Street. Since 1901 Queensland has been one of the Federated States of Australia, and certain affairs of State, notably the Postal and Customs Departments, have been transferred to the Federal Government, in whose Parliament the State of

Queensland has direct representation. In common with all the Federated States, the Commonwealth of Australia has also as its head a Governor representing the King and appointed by the Colonial Office. The duties of the Federal Parliament and State Parliament are well defined, and no serious difficulty has as yet arisen from the exercise of the concurrent legislative powers of State and Commonwealth. The form of Government in both Legislatures is bicameral, both Houses being elective in the Federation, while in the State the Upper House only is a nominee body.



Parliament House from Botanic Gardens, Brisbane.

The franchise for the Federal Senate and House of Representatives, as the two Chambers are termed, is an adult male and female suffrage, the Senate being elected by the State voting as a single electorate and retiring after a period of six years by rotation, one half of the Senators of each State retiring every three years. The members of the House of Representatives are elected by constituencies with fixed boundaries, and are liable to those vicissitudes of dissolutions and appeals to the country known to the British house of Commons. The Commonwealth Parliaments are triennial, expiring by mere lapse of time in three years. In the Queensland State Parliament, the Upper House consists of life members appointed in actual practice by the Governor at the nomination of the existing Government. Constitutionally, the Governor may refuse to appoint a nominee, but the history of Queensland shows no record of a desire by the Governor to interfere with this right of creation in miniature of new peers. The second or lower house in Queensland is called the Legislative Assembly. Its members represent fixed electorates, and are elected upon an adult suffrage, and its Parliaments are triennial. Government is by party methods, the Cabinet being the Governor's responsible advisers, and holding office only by will of the majority of the members of the Lower House in either State or Commonwealth. Ministers of the Crown, both State and Federal, are generally seven in number, exclusive of Ministers without portfolios, and control the administration of the various Government Departments. The Federal portfolios are Trade and Customs, Post and Telegraphs, Defence, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Justice, and the Treasury. In Queensland, the Ministers control departments dealing with Mines, Public Works, Railways, Public Instruction, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Justice, Public Lands, and Agriculture, one Minister taking at times two or even three portfolios.

All elective members, both State and Federal, are paid for their services. The Commonwealth members of both Houses receive £400 per annum, the Queensland members £300 each, in addition to a free pass over all the Australian railways and a certain allowance for steamer fares to members from distant electorates.

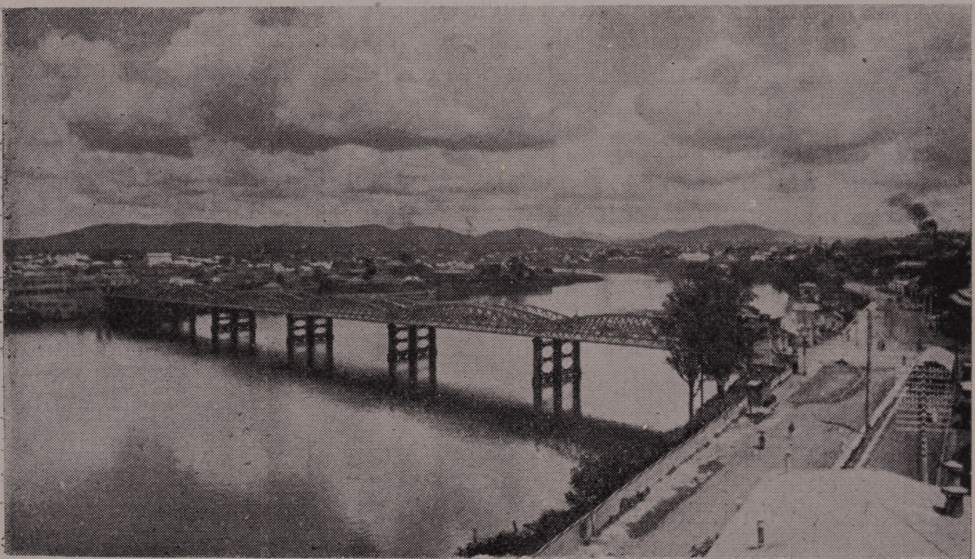
Queensland is directly governed by 72 members in her Legislative Assembly, and by some 40 Legislative Councillors, while her representation in the Commonwealth Parliament consists of six Senators and nine Representatives.

The pivot upon which this machinery of Government turns is the ballot-box, and, so far as statutory enactment can so avail, every precaution is taken to enable the ballot-box to truly express the voice of the people. Not only will bribery, treating, or any other corrupt practice deprive a member convicted thereof of his seat, but the most stringent rules are enforced to enable the voter to free his mind from any undue influence or intimidation. The Federal Government has further provided a limit, which is not to be exceeded by a Federal candidate under penalty of loss of his seat, to the amount to be disbursed in election expenses.

Every male elector of Queensland is entitled to sit in the Queensland Assembly, or to represent his State in the Commonwealth Government, and, though the electoral laws of Queensland do not, as in America, permit the visitor to land just in time to record his vote, like the historical Irishman, "agin the Government," the period of probation, generally six months, is by no means unreasonable.

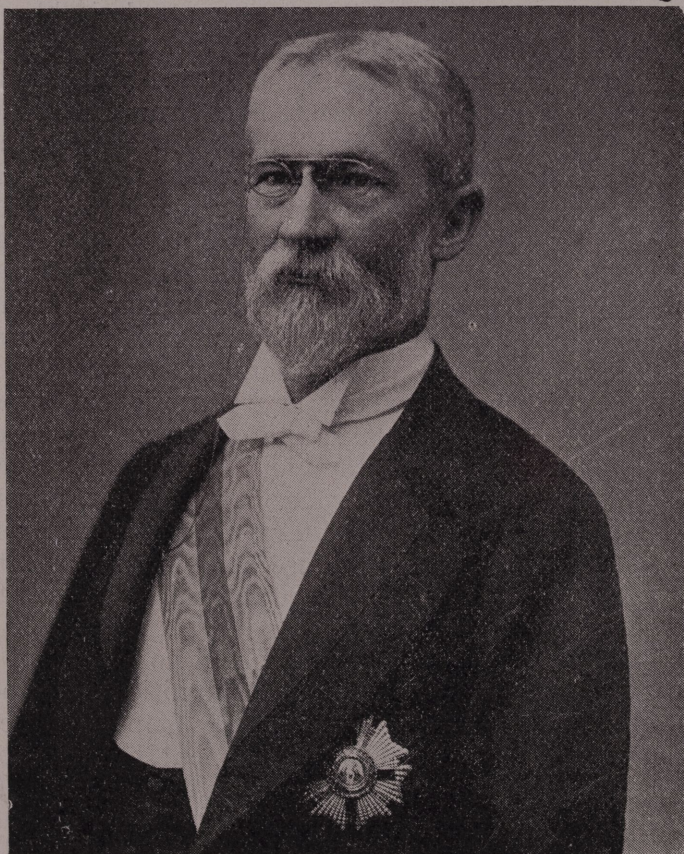
The effect of the liberal franchise and of the system of payment of members has had the effect of creating a body of legislators of a type distinctly foreign to that to be found in the British House of Commons. The might of the ballot-box has been over and over again proved by the great labour organisations of Australia, and all the State Parliaments, as well as the Commonwealth Houses, contain a large proportion of men of the Keir Hardie and Tom Mann stamp, some of them of great sincerity and ability, a notable instance in Queensland being the late W. H. Browne, one of the first Labour Ministers of the Crown. Labour in politics is a great force in Australia, and, though its advent and increase has been viewed with considerable distrust and uneasiness by many people, it must be confessed that so far the Labour Governments, except possibly on the White Australia question, have acted with great moderation.

After the visitor has put in the required residence in the State registration as an elector is easily obtained, and he is then at liberty to plunge into politics. He will hardly be permitted to plunge alone, the political organisation of the State being very complete, and the new comer being early advised of the merits and demerits of the opposing political parties. Though qualified after his six months' residence to enter Parliament, or even to act as Premier, the rise of the budding politician is rarely so meteoric, and his apprenticeship is, for the most part, served in local government politics, as to which some slight explanation may be necessary.



View of Victoria Bridge and South Brisbane looking West.

The administrative system of the Queensland Government is what may be termed a decentralization system. While retaining the general powers of taxation and expenditure, the Government bestows upon each particular district the power, for certain purposes, of self-taxation, and the control of the proceeds of the taxes. All over the State Boards and Councils have been formed for the purpose of administering State functions, the Boards being elected by those whose affairs they are about to govern, but being subject to the direction of a Government Department. The recognized method of dealing with any public work in Queensland is by means of a Board. Should it be necessary to bridge the Brisbane River, a Bridge Board is formed, who answer to the Government for the erection and upkeep of the necessary bridge, and who tax the persons benefitted thereby as occasion may arise. A Health Board is created to stamp out any infectious disease. Sheep and Stock Boards control certain branches of the pastoral industry, and the whole maintenance of the public roads and bridges of the State is vested, with ample powers of taxation, in local authorities known either as Town or Shire Councils. These Town and Shire Councils are the chief nurseries for politicians in Queensland, and ward and shire politics are rightly regarded as matters



**The Right Hon. Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, G.C.M.G., P.C.,
Federal Chief Justice.**

of considerable moment throughout the State. Below the ward politics come those of the progress associations—bodies formed for the most part to watch the interests of the town and shires, putting forward candidates for municipal or council honours, and constantly exercising the right, given to the taxpayers by the law regulating the powers of Boards and Councils, to demand a poll upon any important question of municipal expenditure or government.

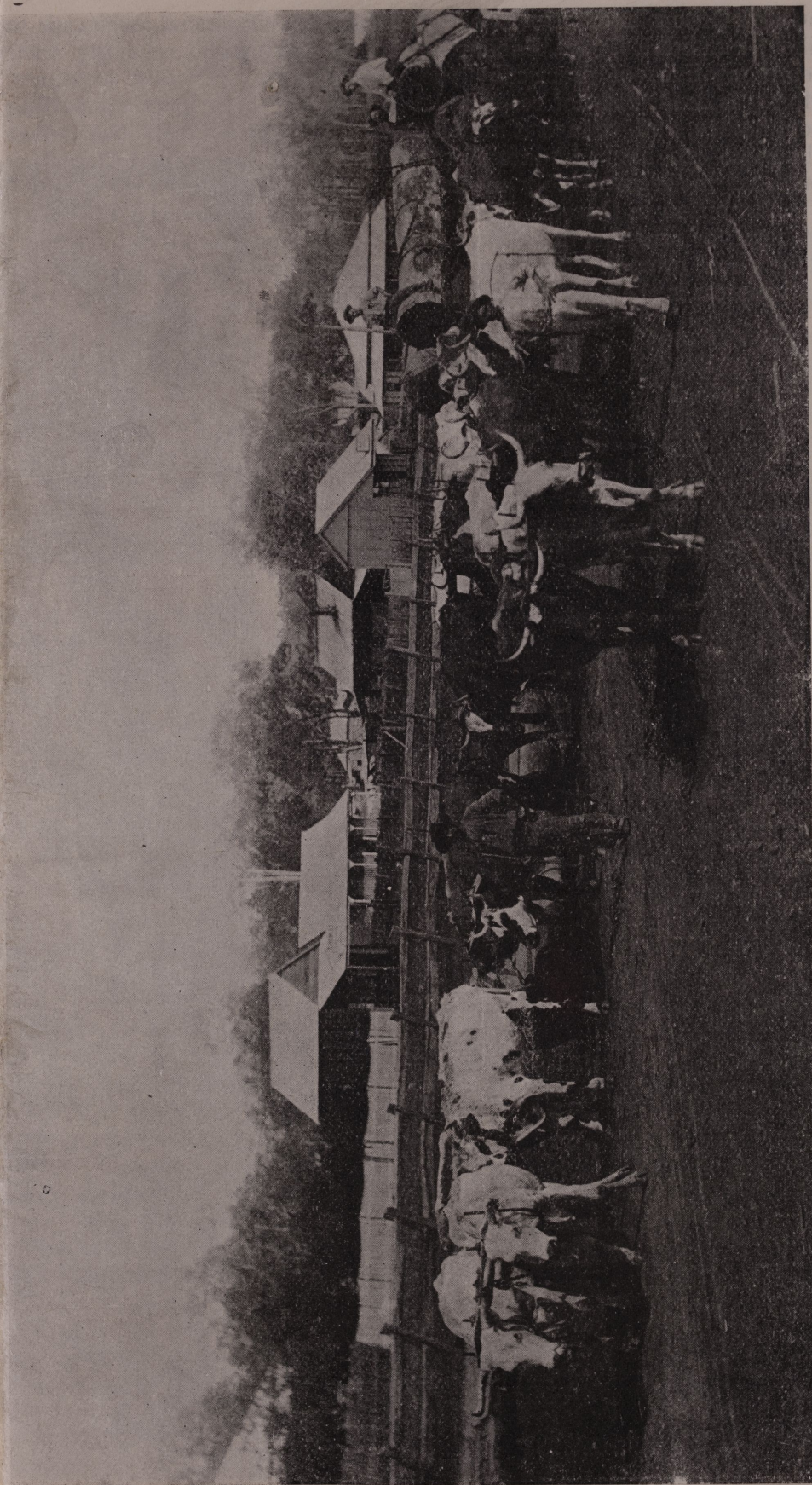
In a separate sphere is to be found the political life of the churches, the local option battles of the temperance movement, and the more strenuous contests for position among the labour unions.

Everywhere throughout the State there is political or party distinction and difference, and everywhere the opportunity to the would-be legislator to flesh his maiden steel in a political antagonist.

Every rung of the political ladder of Queensland from the top to the bottom is clean, not perhaps through the peculiar merit of the politicians themselves, but from the force of general custom. Exactly how far back this customary honesty is to be first dated, it is hard to say, possibly from the first Queensland Parliament, but the fact exists that no Queensland or Federal member of Parliament, alderman, or shire councillor, could give a corrupt vote without at once earning the contumely and scorn of his fellow members and of the public at large. The American lobbyist would, if public opinion were to decide the matter, be prohibited, as an undesirable emigrant, from landing at any Queensland port. Very naturally, since human nature is human nature in Queensland as elsewhere, men associate themselves with, or disassociate themselves from political parties in the hope of preferment in office, and "the brother-in-law industry" is not an unknown phase of the Government service; but the crude indecency of American politics is quite foreign to Queensland.

The Public Service is not encouraged to take any active part in party politics, but change of Government never results in change of State officials. So free is the State official from Parliamentary influence that a prominent ex-Minister of the Crown stated that the staff of the various Government offices always regarded the Ministers of the Crown as mere temporary interlopers unnecessarily hampering the permanent officials in the discharge of the offices of State. The conduct of Parliamentary and municipal proceedings is, with rare exceptions induced by strong party feeling, decorous and orderly, the conduct of the Parliamentary debates being based upon the standing orders of the British House of Commons as interpreted by May, and the rules of debate in town and shire Councils following those of the legislative bodies.

The celerity of the access in Queensland to places of political power depends upon the ability and the opportunities of the politician. Generally speaking, a member can hardly hope to become a Minister in his first or even his second Parliament, but in several cases the happy chances of fortune have created capable Ministers of men of little parliamentary experience. The first essentials to political success in Queensland are personal ability and force of character. To the man without these qualifications expectations of advancement are vain. Money counts for but



Timber Hauling by Bullock Teams, Caboolture.

little in Queensland. Both parties, indeed, give financial assistance to likely candidates, the Labour Party, in particular, relieving their representatives of practically the whole of their election expenses. Money is used, but not respected. Brains are the respect-compelling commodity, and, though it may happen that local interests may defeat the more capable candidate at the polls, in the Legislative Chambers personal merit invariably meets due recognition.

Ambition in Queensland feels not the clogs of poverty, obscurity of birth, or religious disability. The race is open to all, rich or poor, duke's son, or cook's son, Jew or Christian, democrat or conservative, and success is the guerdon of the most truly fit.



Date Palms in Fruit at Barcaldine,

CHAPTER VII.

THE PEOPLE AT PLAY.



FROM 1 o'clock on Saturday until 8 o'clock on Monday, the wheels of the labour mill of Queensland cease to revolve. Grocers, drapers, bankers, merchants, and all the professional classes cease to pursue their avocations beyond the mid-day meal of the seventh day of the week. Saturday afternoon is everybody's holiday, and is the day par excellence upon which the Queenslander satisfies that craving for amusement which is so noticeable a trait in the Australian character. It must not, however, be understood that Saturday afternoon contains all the Queenslander's hours of recreation. Sunday is always, as regards all business, a *dies non*, and

professional business hours rarely commence before nine or end after five, while an Early Closing Act sends all trade employees from their places of business at 6 o'clock on four nights of the week, as well as at 1 p.m. on the Saturday. The Bank Holiday list, too, is liberal, and its benefits are conveniently distributed throughout the year, Easter and Christmas being the chief holiday seasons.



Fishing on the Brisbane River.

Everybody in Queensland likes to "do something" with their Saturday afternoon, and the choice of outdoor pursuits differs but little in kind from that of the British holiday maker. Horseracing, cricket, football, tennis, golf, aquatics, shooting, fishing, and the like are Pan-Britannic sports, but the conditions under which they are enjoyed on this side of the world may prove of interest to British readers.

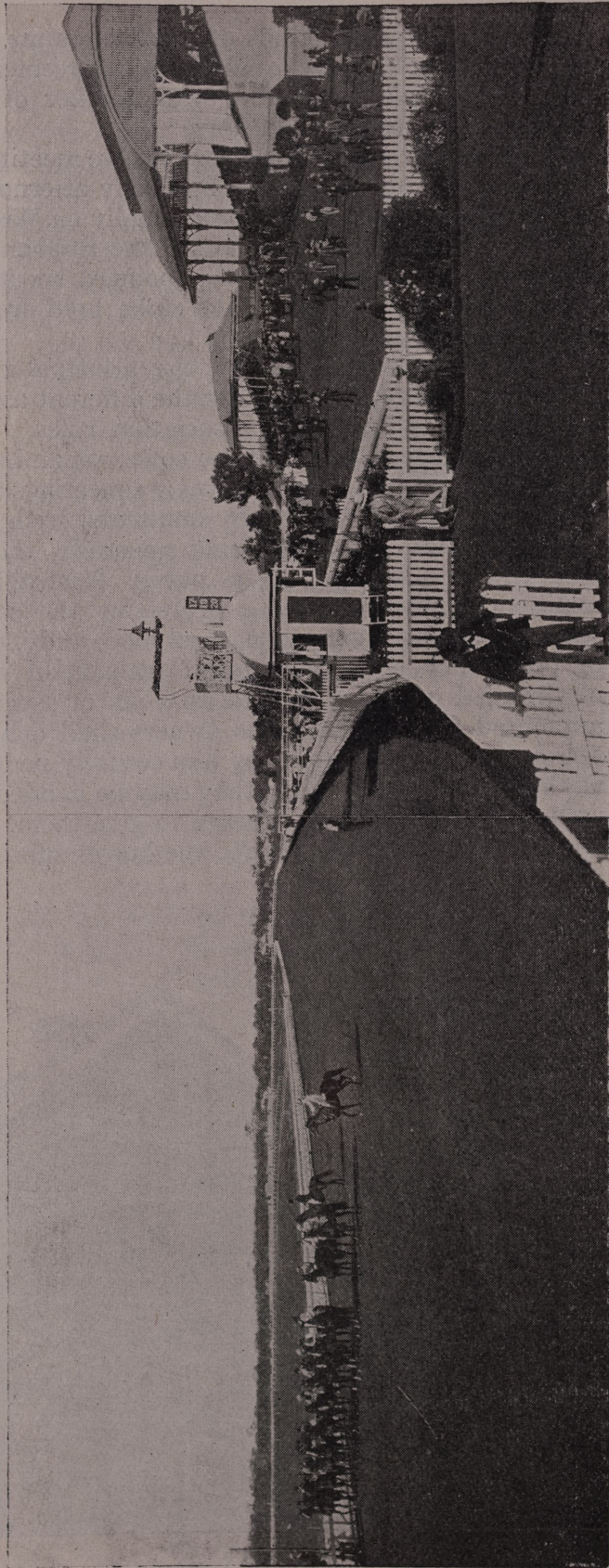
As part of that continent whose love of things equine has gained for it the depreciatory nick name of "Horse-tralia," Queensland naturally gives the Sport of Kings the first place among her amusements. Horseracing is extremely popular with all classes of the community. Racecourses, generally Crown Lands vested in trustees for the purpose of the encouragement of sport, are to be found in the neighbourhood of every fair-sized town, and the community is indeed a small one which does not hold at least one race meeting in the year.

Racing in Queensland is, for the most part, controlled by three ruling associations—viz, the Queensland Turf Club, the Central Queensland Racing Association, and the North Queensland Racing Association. Every racing club of note in Queensland is registered as a club with one of these associations, though there are, of course, unregistered clubs. Horses running at unregistered meetings are, however, debarred from competing at the meetings held under the auspices of the associations. Of these ruling bodies, the first named is the premier association, and has its headquarters and offices at Brisbane. It is the court of final reference in all matters arising in connection with registered racing in Southern Queensland, and is affiliated with the great racing associations of New South Wales and Victoria. The two other associations control the clubs in the Central and Northern districts of the State, and the horses registered under any of the associations are eligible to compete at the meetings of clubs registered with either of the two other associations. All three bodies agree in excluding performers from the unregistered tracks from appearing upon the courses under their jurisdiction.

The Brisbane racecourse, which is the convincing ground of the Queensland Turf Club, is at Ascot, some few miles from the city, with which it has access by train and electric tram. The course proper is a mile and a-quarter in length, and is extremely level, the horses being visible to the onlooker at every point of the race. Three excellent stands have been erected, capable of accommodating several thousand people, and providing ample accommodation in the way of dining, tea, and retiring rooms, while the saddling paddock can accommodate with stabling over 200 horses. A permanent staff of fourteen men attend to the lawns and gardens which surround the stands, as well as to the training tracks and course. The total value of improvements made on the property by the club falls little short of £30,000. The annual subscription to the Q.T.C. is £3 3s. per annum for which sum the subscriber receives one gentleman's and three ladies' tickets, entitling the holder to free admission to all race meetings held on the course during the season. Admission to the course to non-members is 1s. per head to the Flat, 2s. per head to the Leger Stand, and 6s. to the Saddling Paddock and Grand Stand. The whole of the racing can be seen from every part of the course, the members'

stand, and the chief grand stand being, however, more advantageously situated with regard to a view of the finish.

Bookmakers ply their calling at all meetings under the sanction of the Turf Club to whom they pay an annual registration fee of £10 10s, and a further sum of £10 10s. or £5 5s. per day for the right to call the odds in the saddling paddock or the St. Leger enclosure. A betting machine known as a Totalisator, and differing very little from the Gallic Parimutuel, furnishes a popular method of betting for the modest gambler. At this machine the backers purchase a ticket on their betting choice, and the total amount of the purchases, less $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., is distributed among the holders of tickets on the winning horse, extraordinary odds being occasionally paid to the lucky supporters of outsiders, the record for the Ascot course being a return of £154 odd for the investment of £1. Of the amount deducted two-fifths passes to the Government of the State, the balance being divided in varying proportions between the Club and the owners of the



The Course, Ascot, Brisbane.

totalisator. Various kinds of totalisators are in use, that established at Ascot being a marvel of automatic movement, indicators expressing with every ticket sold the total number of tickets taken and the amount invested on each horse.

The Q.T.C. holds in the year twelve meetings, which cover twenty-two days' racing. On every Saturday afternoon on which there is no racing at headquarters and occasionally on Wednesday afternoons, the sporting public are catered for by the Brisbane Jockey Club, a racing syndicate possessing a well-appointed six-furlong track, some two miles from town, while other clubs hold frequent meetings within the metropolitan area.

Throughout the country the principal clubs have claimed the privileges of registration under the different associations, and conduct their meetings under the association rules. In addition, however, to the ordinary club racing the countryman holds his Picnic races and Grassfed meetings. Picnic races are meetings for amateur riders upon horses owned and trained by amateurs, with trophies for prizes, the Indian Ladies' Bracelet being generally the most popular event. The Grassfed meeting is a purely Australian institution, created, apparently for the purpose of testing the capabilities of the horse when subsisting upon his natural food, and independent of the grades of proficiency existing amongst trainers of race horses. The rules of Grassfed meetings provide that six or seven weeks before the day appointed for the races, the owners shall deliver their horses to the secretary of the club to be by him securely paddocked until within one week of the meeting, when they may be handed to the owners for such preparation as they may choose to give them. During the time they are in charge of the secretary, the horses subsist, as do all Queensland



Totalisator House, Ascot Racecourse, Brisbane.

horses away from the larger towns, upon the natural grasses of the country, and hence the nomenclature of the meetings.

It has been suggested that racing is styled the Sport of Kings, because only kings, or, at the lowest, merchant princes and emperors of finance, can afford the luxury of racehorses, and in these days of five figure prices for yearlings, the British turf is forbidden ground to the man of moderate means. In Queensland, however, lovers of the turf need be neither Rothschilds nor Blundell Maples. In every part of the State well-fed stallions are performing the duties of station sires, and appearing, in the first instance at country meetings, there have made their way to the more ambitious scenes of the larger courses many excellent horses; a little short bred perhaps on the dam's side, which have cost their fortunate owners hardly more than the £5 5s. or £10 10s. service fee of their dams, mares enjoying well-earned rest from lives of useful station work. Where, too, racehorses are acquired by purchase in Queensland, the purchasing price is very moderate. The best of the yearlings of the leading Queensland sire, a colt with which his buyer would hope to win the classic events of the Queensland turf, is considered very well sold at 150 guineas, and the average price for a well-bred colt is something under 80 guineas. Naturally, in the Southern States, Queensland buyers give larger prices for yearlings, but even at Randwick 200 to 300 guineas ought to purchase a very good animal. For training the animal thus purchased the best of the Brisbane trainers ask and receive £2 10s. per week, while his jockey, under the rules of the Queensland Turf Club, receives from 10s. to £3 for a losing, and from £2 to £25 for a winning mount, the latter in addition to any further expression of gratitude the owner may think fit to exhibit toward him. The Q.T.C. rules provide that the entrance fees shall not exceed 5 per cent. of the added money, and the scale of charges at present in vogue permits a start in a race for under £70 for £1, £70 to £85 for £1 10s., from £85 to £150 for £2, and thereafter in proportion, starters in the Queensland Cup of 500 sovereigns costing their owners but £5 for entrance and acceptance.

The moneys offered in stakes in Brisbane and the metropolitan area average about £25,000 per annum, of which £15,000 is provided by the premier club. The classic races consist of two two-year-old stakes of 300 and 250 sovereigns, and three three-year old engagements, worth respectively 150 sovereigns, 350 sovereigns, and 250 sovereigns, the last two events being respectively the Queensland Derby and St. Leger. There are also some half-dozen weight for age races in each year worth about £125 each, so that a first-class colt has an opportunity of doing something more than earning his oats.

The betting fraternity of Queensland limit their dealings to the general moderation of the State in all matters of finance. Some four or five pencillers will perhaps make books of £2000 to £3000 on any important Queensland event, but that limit is rarely exceeded. The great betting event of the year is the Melbourne Cup, upon which the books may possibly ran as high as £8000 or £10,000.

The conditions of racing in Central and Northern Queensland, the headquarters of which are at Rockhampton and Charters Towers respectively, resemble those already detailed with respect to the

Southern portion of the State. Meetings are held less frequently, and the prizes offered by the Central Association are somewhat less than those available at Ascot. The Northern Association, however, offers programmes quite equal in value to those of its Southern rivals.

Hunting, in the English fox hunters' sense, is not practised in Queensland. There was for some years in Brisbane a hunt club who, there being no suitable game to give zest to the chase, followed the hounds on drag hunts, but for some reason or other the club was disbanded. Hunters are, however, still kept by many persons in Queensland, frequent opportunities being given for the exhibition of their paces and skill at the many agricultural shows held throughout the State. The American pastime of the horses' high jump is also in great favour with Queenslanders, and excellent performances may be frequently seen in the different show rings, the present best for the State being 6 feet 9 inches, a record made some eighteen months ago at the Queensland National Association's show at Brisbane.

Of colonial hunting the chief horse amusement is the pursuit of the kangaroo, in which, although the hunter is mounted, the main



Return from Duck Shooting.

interest centres in the performances of the dogs, a robust type of greyhound, whose best speed is necessary for the capture of the swift bounding marsupials. Wild pigs are to be found in large numbers in the Central districts, and occasionally pigsticking in the Indian fashion is enjoyed. The approved method of pig chasing some few years back—possibly wiser counsels prevail nowadays—was for the rider to run the boar until he stood at bay, and then to dismount, and despatch him on foot with a revolver. Those who appreciate the difficulty of making good shooting with a revolver, especially after a hard ride, and the offensive capacities of the well-grown tusker, will readily admit that boar hunting under those conditions was a reasonably exciting amusement.

Queensland is wonderfully prolific as regards the feathered world. Ducks, geese, swans, plovers, and snipe are denizens of the rivers and watercourses of the State, the quail, the ibis, and the bustard populate her plains, and the scrubs and forests shelter innumerable pigeons, parrots, and brush turkeys. For most of these birds there is a close season, commencing on the 1st September and ending on 30th April in each year, during which time, which is the colonial mating season, no person is allowed to destroy any of these birds. Apart from this close season, which applies to every person in the State, any person may shoot game. No gun license is required, and, subject to the general laws of trespass, the poorest colonist may take game where he finds it. Game is not preserved or reared anywhere in the State, save in the case of ornamental waters, or in rare instances



Fresh Water Fishing at Cunnamulla.

by acclimatisation societies interested in the introduction of new fauna. A similar freedom from restraint applies to fisheries. The absence, moreover, of damageable property renders landholders liberal as regards the use of their lands for purposes of amusement, and sportsmen who exercise reasonable care in their action towards live stock or crops, should they indeed find it necessary to direct their steps beyond the large areas of Crown lands, are rarely prevented from pursuing their game by the boundary fence of the freeholder.

Fishing in Queensland is at present moment confined for the most part to the salt water branch of the gentle art, a trout hatchery at Killarney, though apparently successful in its aims, having not as yet been able to supply any extensive field to the wielders of the fly. Of the sea fishing the most ambitious is the deep sea sport, the anglers proceeding by steamer some few miles to sea and securing schnapper, a fine bream-shaped fish running from 5 lb. to 15 lb.; sweetlips, a fish resembling the schnapper; and the groper, a rock cod whose weight is reckoned by hundredweights. The schnapper in the season bite most freely, and a party of twenty to thirty fishermen frequently obtain hauls of over 1000 fish. The sweetlips and the groper are somewhat less plentiful, except in particular localities. Shore and river fishing, through the medium of rods, ground lines, or spinning jennies, yield in good quantity whiting, bream, perch, tailor, tarwhine, soles, and flathead, to which in the northern rivers must be added the fine barramundi, a large fish of most excellent flavour. The chief fresh water fish of the western slope of the State is the Murray cod, whose weight at times reaches 60 lb. Of other fresh water fish, the scientifically important *ceratodus* is found in the Burnett and Mary waters, which also provide the fresh water barramundi. Further north the supply of fresh water fish would seem to greatly increase, recent advices from the upper branches of the Palmer River telling of an abundance of edible fish being taken by the skilful fisherman.

There are, however, fine days in Queensland on which the Australian natives do not desire to "go out and kill something," and on such days they devote themselves with great vigour to all manner of field sports. Of these, the King of Games claims their summer attention, the game being, for the most part, controlled by associations of which the Queensland Cricket Association, whose headquarters are at Brisbane, is practically the chief and ruling body. The players are distributed according to their various abilities into divisions and grades, the teams in each grade contesting among themselves for the premiership of that grade, the successful team in each grade being generally promoted in the following season to the next immediate grade to that in which their success has been gained.

The premier cricket clubs in Brisbane are formed upon the electoral system—a modification of the English County system—every player being compelled to give his services to the club of the parliamentary electorate in which he resides. Eight electorate clubs are now in existence, each possessing their own grounds, and putting at least two teams into the field on every Saturday afternoon. The pitches used by the electorate clubs are invariably made of turf, the wickets being in many instances brought to great perfection, especially upon the principal city grounds, which at Bowen Hills



A Cricket Match.

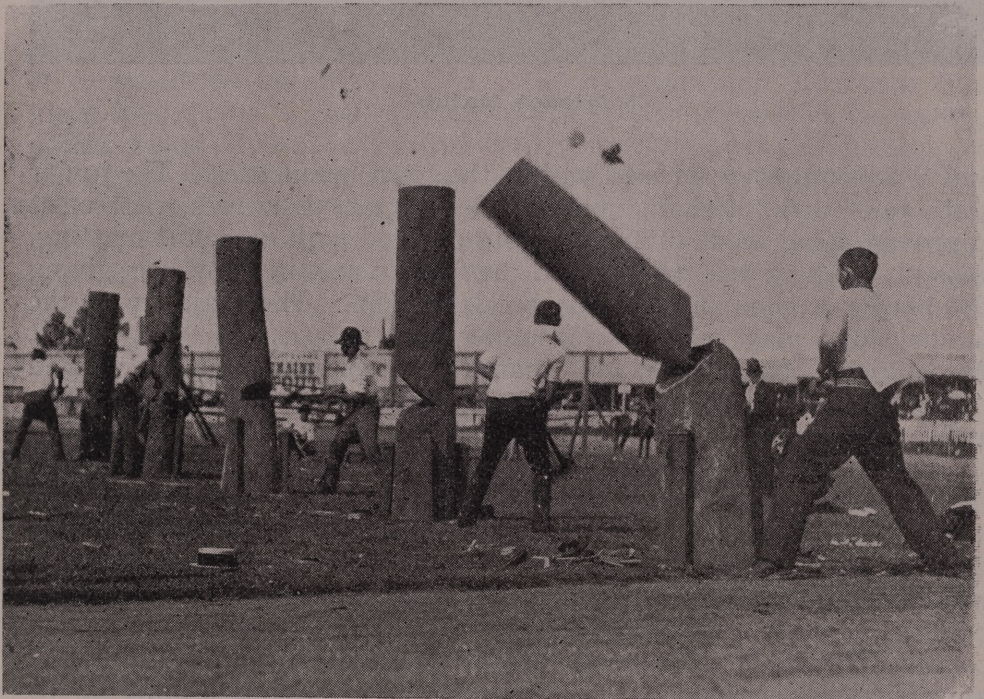
and Woolloongabba lie well within the town boundaries. The junior clubs take their pleasure upon pitches of varied natures, that most approved being made of asphalt, and covered with cocoanut matting, thus providing a fast true wicket, the fibre of matting, however, giving the bowler a good bite for his break or spin. The majority of the junior clubs play set fixtures under the auspices of the Cricket Association, but there are many clubs playing what is termed "miscellaneous cricket," whose engagements are of a casual nature, and are made from week to week.

In the larger country towns cricket associations, affiliated to the Brisbane Association, arrange and control the fixtures of the local clubs. A Country Week is annually held at Brisbane, opposing country teams meeting upon the chief metropolitan ground, and a picked combined country team being pitted against a team of metropolitan players. A somewhat similar contest between town and country players is to be seen in almost every up-country town, the annual cricket match Town v. Country always finding a place in the programme of the annual holiday week. Interstate matches are played with the neighbouring States, and a position in the Queensland eleven is eagerly coveted by both country and city players.

Cricket, like all other sports, is encouraged by leading business men, and teams from most of the large warehouses and offices of Brisbane are weekly found competing in Association or miscellaneous cricket.

Queensland form with the bat and the ball is about on a par with that of a good second class county in England, and is distinctly on the up grade. The wonderful strength of New South Wales, her nearest cricket opponent, has recently had the effect of discounting the merits of the Queenslander players to an undue extent. Mr. Warner, the leader of the last English eleven, in his recent book, confesses having been agreeably surprised by the sound form shown in all departments of the game by the Queenslanders in the match played against his team.

The chief winter pastime in Queensland is football, no less than three forms of the game being practised. Two of these are the "Rugger" and "Socker" of Great Britain, the third being what is called the Australian game, there being therein no offside, and kicking of goals being the main object of the players. Rugby is at present the favourite game of the people, large audiences assembling both at the badge matches between the electorate clubs, and at the annual inter-state contests with New South Wales, the State having for years past more than held her own against the mother colony. The Association game has for its chief exponents the coal miners of the Brisbane-River Valley, the majority of whom have learned their game on British fields. The game has not, however, yet received from the Queensland public the recognition its merits deserve.



**Wood Chopping Contest, Brisbane, 1904. 18 inch Log,
Hewing Time, 1 min. 40 sec.**

Lawn tennis, both in the serious form of public competitions and as the milder pastime of social sets, is played upon both public and private courts at all seasons of the year, the winter being, however, the chosen time for the more important events of the tennis world. Excellent public courts, upon which some dozen grass courts are always available for play, have been recently completed by the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association in a convenient suburb. In addition to the grass courts there are to be found in the State many asphalt, gravel, and antbed court, the latter being an earth court top-dressed with a red clay taken from the nests of the mound building ant, the dressing, when watered and rolled, setting almost as hard as cement. Tennis form in Queensland is somewhat poor, the annual visits of a State team from New South Wales generally resulting in the signal victory

of the older State. The milder delights of casual tennis are largely enjoyed by both sexes throughout the whole State, the anted courts of the sheep and cattle stations being especially responsible for many pleasant hours in the back country.

Golf links are to be found in the neighbourhood of several of the larger towns, and the game finds and keeps patrons in many of the leading men of the State, among whom also the ancient game of bowls has its full quota of votaries.

To those whose homes lie adjacent to any part of the State's long coast line, the Pacific Ocean with its river-bays and estuaries, reefs and islands, offers delightful aquatic privileges. Almost the whole of the waters washing the Queensland main shores are protected from the full swell of the ocean, either by islands or by the 1000 mile long Barrier Reef, and as a consequence the pleasure of sailing need rarely be suspended by rough seas and their consequent dangers, the hundreds of islands which fringe the coast offering innumerable harbours of refuge to boats of light draught.

Broad rivers offer excellent convincing grounds for eights and four oars, and the mild climate renders boat racing possible at all seasons of the year. Queenslanders compete annually in the interstate eight-oar races, which are held in each State in turn, but although rowing as a general rule into a good position, have not for some years held the championship of the States. In interstate sculling championships, however, they have obtained quite their share of premiership honours. Both boating and yachting competitions are conducted by clubs, who have their club houses and rooms after the approved British manner.

Harrier clubs exist in large numbers, an Amateur Athletic Association being the governing body. Gymnasia, with paid instructors, give squad instructions to numerous students in all branches of gymnastics, and the amateur boxing competitions of the State take place under the auspices of the gymnasium authorities.

There comes, however, a time when one realises the truth of the Psalmist's sayings that "a horse is a vain thing for safety," and "the Lord taketh delight in no man's legs," and when recreation to be enjoyed must be of the passive rather than the active order. To the old as to the young, to the student as to the sportsman, the State offers opportunities of enjoyment. In the mental recreations of literature, the 15,000 miles between Queensland and the modern Fleet Streets places the colonial reader but thirty-five days behind his more favoured British brother, practically every British work of importance finding its way to the shelves of the many excellent public and private libraries of the State immediately upon its publication. All the British newspapers and magazines are available at practically British prices, and the English visitor will find his Australian host, even in the back blocks, well abreast of the current topics of the day. If the culture of the universities is not as apparent in Queensland as in Great Britain—since the graces of education are apt to be neglected in the cares of daily toil—the scholar need not necessarily find himself absolutely alone in his knowledge either of the varying uses of the enclitic *dè* or the mathematical joys of the integral

calculus or functional calculoids, or even in the philosophic pleasures of Kant's *Transcendental Æsthetic*.

To the artist "the blue unclouded weather," the gorgeous sunsets, and the fine perspectives of hill and vale, give glorious opportunities, while to the naturalist and mineralogist the physical conditions of the oldest of the known continents offer unbounded scope for studies whose important results the scientific societies of the State would hasten to make known to the world.

The study and practice of music and song is universal throughout the State. The Australian voice is peculiarly mellow and clear, and every town and hamlet seems to claim some budding Melba or Crossley. Musical entertainments, both vocal and instrumental, are much affected, and excellent combined vocal work is done by the various musical unions, liedertafels, and choirs. The Welsh Eistedfodd is a well-established institution, which every Easter attracts thousands of critical listeners to its meetings, the venue of which changes annually.

Dancing is very popular among the young people of the State, the winter months being in the towns especially gay with public and private balls and dances. In the country, dancing is always in season, and the bush lads and lassies ride many miles for the pleasure of dancing from dark till broad daylight.



Picnic Resort, Crow's Nest Waterfall.

Social clubs, formed for the solace and recreation of the male-mind, have their habitat in the business towns, and the rubber of whist or bridge, or the friendly game of pool, is always obtainable. The status and style of these clubs vary from the fashionable Queensland Club down to the mechanics' institutes and workmen's clubs. Masonic lodges, into which English degrees obtain immediate acceptance, exist side by side with various friendly societies, the Oddfellows, Druids, Foresters, and Hibernians each receiving considerable public support.

Throughout the State, the sound of the church-going bell gives weekly tokens of the possibilities of quiet Sabbath joys and the comforts of the religious life, and the church worker of every sect will find no lack either of opportunity for the use of his talents, or of appreciation of his work for his faith and his fellow worshippers.

In the home life are to be found the delights of horticulture and the breeding of stock, dogs, or poultry. Horse exercise or driving is also within easy reach of all persons of moderate means, the average upkeep of a horse being in ordinary seasons about 8s. per week, and a very fair animal being purchasable for about £10.

And in addition to the joys of bodily or mental activity there lies in the mild and equable climate of Queensland, with its freedom from the bitter and inclement skies of the Northern Hemisphere, a constant source of that feeling of well-being and comfort of which Wordsworth sang—

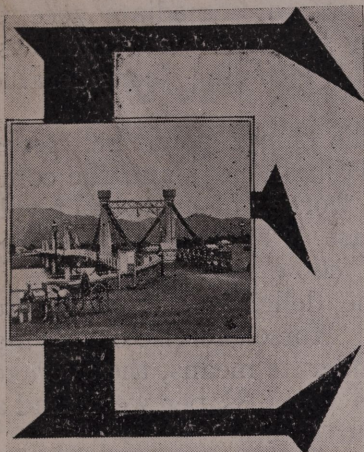
Ah, then 'twas joy to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven.



A Typical Farm on North Coast Line.

CHAPTER VIII.

LIFE'S LITTLE WORRIES.



VEN in Queensland nothing can be done without money, and as the cost of administering the affairs of the State and the Commonwealth considerably exceed the income of the revenue-producing departments of State, the Queenslander naturally bears the cost of his own government. Indirect taxation is the chief source of State income, a strong policy of protection imposing duties ranging from 10 per cent to 30 per cent on imported commodities. The severity of the protective tariff of the Commonwealth, in whose control all

the Customs Departments are now vested, is tempered by exceptions making for "the free breakfast table," tea in particular being an untaxed commodity, and other household articles also being admitted to the States free of duty. Excise duties on wine, spirits, and tobacco give the semblance of a change of the incidence of taxation from the general consumer to the individual producer, a fiction maintained in the fees charged for licenses to sell spirituous liquors or tobacco

Stamp Acts, resembling in form those of Great Britain, also impose duties upon legal and mercantile documents.

Of direct taxation the chief tax is an Income Tax, which provides that all incomes not exceeding £100 shall be exempt; that the rates payable upon income derived from personal exertion shall be—from £100 up to £125, a fixed sum of 10s.; exceeds £125, but not £150, a fixed sum of £1; exceeds £150, but not £300, £100 exempt, and 6d. in the £ on the remainder; exceeds £300, but not £500, 6d. in the £; exceeds £500, but not £1000, 6d. in every £ of the first £500, and 7d. on the remainder; exceeds £1000, but not £1500, 7d. in the £ on the first £1000, and 8d. in the £ on the remainder; exceeds £1500, 8d. in the £; and on income derived from property—exceeds £100, but not £120, a fixed sum of £1; exceeds £120, but not £300, £100 exempt, and one shilling in the £ on the remainder; exceeds £300, one shilling in the £. The incomes taxed are net incomes, and the list of deducible items is reasonably liberal.

There is no Land Tax, so called, in Queensland, but the local shire or town council are entrusted with the power to levy at a rate not exceeding 3d. in the pound for the maintenance and upkeep of the roads and bridges of the shire or town, and also to levy rates, if necessary, to similar amounts for health and lighting purposes. These local rates are levied annually, and to use a legal term, "run with the land," which, in the case of long-continued refusal of the rate collector's requests, may be leased or even sold to realize the amount in default.

The amount of these rates is yearly determined by the different councils, and the expenditure of the rates when collected is closely criticised by the ratepayers. The local authorities also control other minor taxes, such as the dog tax, generally 2s. 6d. per animal, the goat tax, and, in some timber-getting districts, the wheel tax.

The succession to property by reason of a death also provides an opportunity for an increase of the Government revenue, a graduated tax operating to demand from the estates of deceased persons sums varying with the value of the estate from 10s., the amount payable on all estates up to £300, to 10 per cent on the value of an estate of over £20,000. The schedule of succession duties reduces by one-half all duties on successions to wife, husband, or children of the deceased person, but doubles the ordinary rates where the beneficiary is a charitable institution or a stranger in blood to the deceased. Probate duty is also chargeable upon the legal title or indicia of title of the personal representatives of estates exceeding £300, at £1 per £100 of the value at which the estate is sworn.

For the protection of the public, statutory enactment provides that certain trades and professions can only be entered upon after examination and registration, and upon payment of certain fees. The legal profession in Queensland differs little in exclusiveness from the close corporation whose throne is the Woolsack. All medical men, chemists, and dentists are registered by the Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Boards of the State. A satisfactory British degree, however, in law, medicine, or pharmacy, will entitle the holder to admission to the sacred precincts of those professions in Queensland upon payment of the fees prescribed from time to time by the controlling boards.

Other minor taxes affecting the pastoral and agricultural industries assist the Government in the war waged by them against pests threatening, or likely to threaten, the State, the rabbit tax—which is imposed upon stock owners only, and the proceeds of which are applied towards the exclusion from Queensland of the unwelcome rabbit—being a suitable instance of this special class of taxation.

If we add the totalisator tax, which is the Government return from the gambling machine described in an earlier chapter, the list of public impositions in Queensland will be practically complete. Special occasions, however, may arise in which, for the purpose of some work of great benefit to some particular class of people, or some particular area of land, a considerable Government expenditure has necessarily to be incurred, and in such an instance the favoured persons or area may, for a limited period, be called upon to make some small return for the benefits conferred. An almost universal rule, however, makes the consent of the proposed taxpayer a condition precedent to the tax-creating expenditure, sudden danger to the public health being practically the only exception which proves this rule.

In addition to the duty of payment of the State taxes the Queenslanders are liable to the ordinary civic duties of the Englishman. He must sit on the civil or criminal jury if impanelled, or attend to give evidence in answer to a subpoena if reasonable expenses therefor are tendered to him, or as a justice of the peace administer the law of the land. His use of his own property must not operate to the

detriment of his neighbour, and he must be prepared to bear and forbear in matters of common interest.

Australian life is open, and every man is expected to emerge from his hermit crab's shell, and take part in the government of the State, either on the school board, the church councils, the progress associations, or elsewhere in the public life. These upon whom fortune has smiled are expected, in reasonable moderation, to smile substantially upon the less happy. Hospitals and benevolent asylums are recognized as proper objects of charity, and deafness to any cry of distress is as unpopular as it is infrequent in Queensland.

There are beside the sacred claims of charity, other calls upon the purse strings of the Queenslander. The local athletic clubs, the political organizations, the church and school building funds, all look for support, and for the most part not vainly. On the whole, however, these calls of charity and goodwill do not make serious inroads into the income of the colonist, whose beneficence sinks, in everything except in the spirit of the giver, into insignificance when compared with the constant drain for similar purposes upon the resources of the British merchant or landowner.

And as a last word, the Queenslander regards all Englishmen everywhere as his friends, whether in front of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, or in the back blocks of his own State, or on those veldts and stoeps whereon the sacrament of friendship was so lately sealed in blood, and as brother to brother he offers a welcome to the hearths and homes 'neath these sunny southern skies.



Sheep Resting under Brigalow Trees, near Chinchilla.

